speaks, sister critical

ventilator for six of

PNA wrecks Palestinian houses

GAZA (R) — The Palestine National Authority (PNA) Wednesday demolished five houses built illegally on state-owned land in Gaza, Palestinians said. Mohammad Kahlout, 38, from the Sheikh Radwan area in Gaza city, said Palestinian police wrecked his house and four others in the neighbourhood. "Four months ago, house and four others in the neighbourhood. "Four months ago, the Palestinian Anthority gave us a 48-hour notice to evacuate nur houses because they would be demolished since they were built on state-owned land without permits," Mr. Kahlnut told Reuters. "They came today and without notice they demolished the houses before we could remove the furniture," he added. Mr. Kahlout and his nine-member family said they had nowwhere in go and were penniless. Former Israeli occupiers used house demolition as a form of punishment against Palestinians in Gaza. "When (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafar arrived we thought we would have a happy life, but we never thought we would end up this way." he said.

Jordan Ti

جوردان تايمز يومية شياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الرايء

Fed raises interest rates

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve raised short-term interest rates Wednesday for the seventh time in a year, increasing both the overnight interbank rate and the discount rate by half a percentage point. The increase took the overnight interbank rate (the Fed funds rate) to 6.0 per cent from 5.5 per cent and the discount rate to 5.25 per cent from 4.75 per cent. The U.S. central bank announced the rate increased after a two-ay meeting of its policy making open market committee, the first of 1995. "Despite tentalive signs of some moderation in growth, economic activity has continued in advance at a substantial pace while resource unlization has risen further," the Fed said in a statement. "In these circumstances the Fed views these actions as necessary in keep inflatinn contained and thereby foster sustainable economic growth." The Fed acted six times last year, beginning in February. to raise short-term rates to forestall inflation. The last increase was on Nov. 15, when the Fed raised both the interbank and discount rates by three-quarters of a percentage point.

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Price: Jordan 150 Fils

crez de Cuellar de out for the formality of the dheim as U.N. chief and just two voted against, the June festivities and just two voted against, both from the far-right Modele Party. Jordan began to celebration in New 340-square-kilometre border crip, most of which Israel Secretary General Secretary General East war. Speaker Shevah
Ghali made the decide Weiss has complained that
Weiss has complained that Weiss has complained the deck of the government handed back the government handed back and even before the treaty was ratified.

EU delegation served to tour Mideast Spoketman

Fauzi said. Helasir pean Union (EU) will send a delegation to the Middle East next week to support the troubled peace process, a french foreign ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Spokesman Richard Duque said the EU would send a trilateral delegation to the Middle East from Feb. 7-10, with successive stops in Syria. Israel, Gaza and Lebanon. WASHINGTON (R). The delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe water of a water of p. of France, which currently presides the EU, and will include representatives of Spain and Germany, respectively France's successor and predecessor at the EU's helm. "We support the peace process and hope that the current difficulties will be overcome as quickly as possible," Mr. Duque said.

Lebanon to probe waste dumping

BEIRUT (AFP) - The Lebanese government Wednesday asked the court of justice to investigate the dumping of toxic waste in Lebanon and called on a special committee to remove it as quickly as possible, offid here. The was taken a day after the international environmental group Greenpeace accused the Environment Ministry of trying to dump containers of toxic waste in monntains nurtheast of Beirut. The court of justice will try to find out who brought thousands of barrels of toxic waste into

India denies building Iran chemical plant

NEW DELHI (R) - India has stressed it has no chemical weapons and does not bave the technology or expertise to manufacture them. The Indian Foreign Ministry, in a statement faxed to Reuters Statement raxed to Reuters on Wednesday, denied a reon wennesday, denied a report in the Washington Times bort in the Washington Times that three Indian companies its once the were helping Iran build a secret poison gas complex. The statement quoted a ministry spokesman as saying the Washington Times had made similar allegations in washington Times had made similar allegations in the past. Monday's Washing to reput to Times story was reported by the Indian Express. "Clarifying the Indian Express." and vouner and spokesman said the projects for the construction of pesticides factories. Andrew and construction of pesticides factories in Iran were put ont to international tender and Iradian ont to international tender and Indian companies and Indian companies won these tenders in open one competition," the statement

Hurd: Libya still prime blast suspect

resh state LONDON (AFP) — British membera of page membera of membera of parliament (MPs) Wednesday the United States of hiding released U.S. intelligence data showed an Iranian ayatollah had paid extremists \$10 million to bomb the Jumbo jet. "During the early stages of the investigation," said Mr. Hurd, "the possibility that Palestinian extremist groups might be responsible was extensively investigated and so were reports of Iranian involvement.

King, Arafat, Rabin and Mubarak meet today Unprecedented Cairo summit to focus on Palestinian-Israeli track

By P.V. Vivekanand with

agency dispatches AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein today meets with the leaders of Egypt, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in an unprecedented Middle East summit that will seek to hreak the deadlock in the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said the summit was planned by the four leaders in telephone contacts. Mr. Kabariti's Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, announced the meeting after President Hosni Muharak met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in

Mr. Peres, npon his return to Israel after his brief visit to the Egyptian capital, described the summit as a "coalition for peace" that will seek to revive the sagging

Mr. Kabariti said in Amman that the summit, where Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would meet with three of his main Arab partners in peace, including PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, would focus on the troubled attacks by bardliners who Palestinian-Israeli peace oppose the accord.

"Jordan hopes that the meeting would result in prodnciog a mechanism that would give a new impetus to the peace efforts in all its dimensions, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track because Jurdan believes that genuine peace should he comprehensive and enable the Palestinians to exercise

their rights in accordance with international resolutions and in implementation of the Oslo and Cairn agreemeots," Mr. Kabariti was quoted as saying hy Jordan Television. The Oslo accords, worked out in secret between the PLO and Israel, were formulated into a declaration of principles that was signed hy the two sides in Washington

on Sept. 13, 1993. Subsequently, the two sides negotiated the implementation of interim Palestinian antonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and signed an agreement in Cairn on May 4. Under the Cairo accord, the PLO launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but the expansion of Palestinian autonomy to the rest of the West Bank remains stalled after a spiral of violent

Jordan has signed a peace treaty with Israel. Negoniations hetween Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon - the two other tracks of the peace process launched in Madrid in 1991 — remain deadlocked.

Earlier Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said President Mubarak had invited King Hussein 10 join him in a traditional Ramadan meal (iftar) in Cairo on

"Following the iftar, there will be a meering including the Jordanian, Egyptian, Palestioian and Israeli sides to discuss the present status of the peace process and other issues under the Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed by the two sides in Cairn last vear." Petra said.

The meeting will seek to produce means to advance the process and overcome the problems facing it on some of the tracks ahead of a comprehensive and just peace in the region," the agency said without elaboration.

According to statements made by Mr. Musa in Cairo, Egypt is making intense "efforts to salvage the peace process from collapse. "The summit will focus on the Palestinian track because

The talks are not expected to start until nightfall Thursday in deference to the

1967 war.

it's the track which has been

blocked by 100 many obsta-

cles," Mr. Musa tald repor-

The four-way talks were

annnunced after Mr. Mubar-

ak met with Mr. Peres ar

Cairo's Al lttihadiya palace.

meeting, their foreign minis-

ters are to hold sessions on

the side, Mr. Musa added.

the list is Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who refuses

to meet with Israeli leaders

before he has a commitment

for the return of land seized

by the Jewish state in the

Noticeably missing from

As the four leaders will be

achieve a breakthrough."

"The summit is to try to



Ramadan fast, which began

Wednesday.

President Muharak has repeateoly acted as mediator between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat, but Thursday's meeting will be the first to hring in King Hussein.

Asked why Jordan was in-vited. Mr. Musa told a Cairo news conference: "Of course, it has significance. It is a parailel addition to the peace process. There are agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Jordan and there are interactions.... and there is an agreement between Jordan and Israel. This is why Jordan will be coming here.

Egypt is apparently also concerned that the process of trying to end almost five de-



Vitzbak Rahin

cades of Arab-Jewish hostility could be further undermined hy deadlock between Syria and Israel over the future of the Golan Heights.

Mr. Peres told reporters after meeting Mr. Muharak to wrap up details that the four-party summit was "an innovative effort in the history of the Middle East."
"I think it (the summit)

would serve peace in the Middle East because more and more what we are facing in the Middle East is not a confrontation like it used to be in the past between Jews and Arabs and Palestinians and Israelis, but a real attempt to create a coalition for peace," Mr. Peres said. "I believe this is probably

the first time that we are



meeting like this, a coalition for peace made up of not one or two parties, hut of three states and an autonomous

Mr. Peres asked President Assad to join in.

"I will say that on our side as far as we are concerned there is an open invitation to President Assad. If he wants join in we shall clearly be happy if be will do so ... we don't want to exclude anybody," Mr. Peres said, Mr. Musa said Mr. Assad

was not invited by host Egypt because "we don't want to embarrass him.

Mr. Mubarak said after meeting Mr. Assad and Saudi King Fahd in Alexandria in

(Continued on page 7)

Israel approves building Syria to new Jerusälem colony

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM Mnbarak and King Hussein (Agencies) — In the escalating fight over Jerusalem, an Israeli planning committee Wednesday approved construction of a large Jewish neighbourhood in the eastern sector claimed by the Palesti-

nians as a future capital. Angry Palestinian leaders said Israel was violating the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord by creating facts on the ground before talks on the final status of the Holy City oegin next year.

There is no meaning to the peace process," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rab-"Israel wants to replace the talks by drawing a new

map, and we reject this." The go-ahead for the new Jewish neighbourhood of Har Homa came a day before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was to meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni

crisis of confidence.

Wednesday's decision was bkely to further inflame the Palestinians who complain that Israel's land grab in the West Bank and East Jerusalem endangers the negotiations. Last week, Mr. Rabin's cabinet approved more than 3,000 new bomes in Jewish West Bank settlements ringing Jerusalem.

The Har Homa neighbourhood in southern Jerusalem will have 6.500 homes, with construction likely to begin next mouth. Har Home will be huilt on

land Israel seized the 1967 war and theo "annexed" into Jerusalem. A spokesman said 75 of the 460 acres set aside for the neighbourhood were confiscated from Arab landowners. Other land was taken from Israeli landown-

Once completed, Har in Cairo to try and rescue the Homa would boost East Jeru-Israel-PLO negotiations that have been balted over a deep some 25,000. Since 1967, Israel has built a ring of Jewisb suburbs in East Jerusalem, and today Jews narrowly nutnumber the 150,000 Palestinians in the eastern sector. In all, Jews make up two-thirds of Jerusalem's population of 560,000.

În a related development, police planned to deploy several hundred extra troops in and near Jerusalem's old walled city on Thursday, in anticipation of prayers at the

Al Aqsa Mosque on Friday. Meanwhile, Palestinians from across the political spectrum launched an antisettlement campaign, calling for donations to buy land, plant trees and organise protests, under Palestinian Information Minister Abed Rabbo. He said that a rally was planned for Friday near

(Continued nn page 7)

consultU.S. DAMASCUS (Agencies) -

Syria's ambassador to the United States Walid Al Muallem will return to Washington this week for talks with an American team supervising the deadlocked Syrian-Israeli peace negntiations, officials said on Wednesday.

They said the decision was conveyed by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa to U.S. Ambassador to Syria Christopher Ross during a meening on Tuesday.

Mr. Sharaa also gave Mr. Ross a message from President Hafez Al Assad to President Bill Clinton in reply to a message which Mr. Clinton sent earlier on the peace pro-

Mr. Muallem returned to Damascus following a round of talks with his Israeli counterpart to the U.S. in December in which the chiefs of staff of the Syrian and Israeli armed forces took part.

Syria said the talks pro duced no results and accused Israel of presenting impossible demands during the ses-sion, held at the State Department under the auspices of Washington.

Syrian Information Minister Mnhammad Salman said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was unahle tn take any decisive decision on peace with Damascus because he was worried about his political future.

"Rahio's dwindling popularity inside Israel, caused by his policies, is making him anxious about his political future especially with the approach of the elections. That is why he is unable to take any decisive decision on peace," Mr. Salman inld Reuters.

But he said Syria would continue to cooperate with efforts by the United States and any other party aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on U.N. resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arah lands, Syria and Israel have

reached no tangible results in more than three years of peace talks. Mr. Salman said Mr. Rabin

was "resorting to manoeuvres" to cover up his inability to take decisions about peace. Elections are due in Israel next year. The minister said the decision by Damascus to send

Mr. Muallem hack to Washington indicated its interest in supporting the U.S. peace efforts.

Jordan wins IOJ presidency

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) elected Jordan as its first Arab president on Wednesday. Suleiman Qudah, head of

the Jordan Press Association (JPA), will serve as president nf the 120-member IOJ for the next four years. He won 66 votes against 27 secured by Poland's Andrzej Ziemzski. Mr. Qudah, deputy chief

editor of Al Ra'i daily, is the first Arab to head the Prague-based 1OJ. Antonio Nieva of the Philippines was elected

secretary-general with 51 votes against 45 secured by Martins Morim of Portugal. Carlos Camano from Argentina secured vice-

presidency and Moses Nagamontoo from Guana won second vice-presidency, Bulgaria's Alexander Anjelo was elected treasurer. Naim Toubassi, president nf the Palestinian Journalists Association, was elected

the Arah group, and Jean-Francois Tealdi as vicepresident for Europe. Ladi Lawal, a Nigerian, was named vice-president for Africa, Cuha's Topal Poez Hernandes for Latin Amer-

ica, Vietnam's Phang Quang

vice-president representing



Suleiman Qudah

for Asia, and Earl Posky from Santa Lucia for the Carribbean.

A motion adopted at the end of an annual IOJ congress held here called for the protection of journalists and freedom of the press around the world.

For the first time since the IOJ was founded in 1946 as a stalwart against imperialism and capitalism, the organisatin took no stand on political issues such as Algeria or the

Middle East peace process. In its final session, the conference adopted a statement "affirming the importance of consolidating the IOJ role in the international scene and of increasing coordination and cooperation among its members in finding positive solutions to problems facing jour

The statement said the IOJ, founded in 1946, was committed "to protect and strengthen the rights of journalists and their freedoms.'

In 1952, in the thick of the gold war, most western associations split off from the IOJ to form the International Federation of Journalists which is based in Brussels.

The Amman conference called for "greater unity" between professional organisations hut made no reference to a possible reunification.

Outgoing Secretary General Gerard Gatinot of France, urging the protection of journalists, said 129 colleagues had been killed in 1994 while

at work around the ginbe. The Qudah's main task will be to reorganise the finances of the organisation, which now has an annual hudget of \$1.5 million, down from an average \$10 million in the

Moscow issues warrant for Dudayev, redoubles Grozny bid

Russia stepped up its innmidation campaign against Chechenya nn Wedoesday. issuing an arrest warrant for its president, Dzhokhar Dudavev, and claiming a significant military advance in the capital Grozny.

Meanwhile, the Interior

Ministry officially took command of the intervention from the Defence Ministry, in line with President Boris Yeltsin's assertion that following the fall of the presidential palace in Grozny two weeks ago, all that remains to be done in the separarist republic is a "clean-up opera-

General Alexander Kulikov, head of Russia's Interior Ministry forces, was named commander of the Cbecbenya operation, the news agency Interfax reported. He replaces Gen. Anatoly Kvachin of the Detence Ministry.

Russia's chief prosecutor accused Mr. Dudayev of treason and incitement to terfor his arrest, Interfax said. The charges arise from Mr. Dudayev's acrions in un-

ilaterally taking Chechenya out of Russia three years ago, then taking up arms against Russian troops when they entered the Caucasian republic to crush the secession on Dec. 11. Ten days ago the Russian

authorities said they had launched a manhunt for Mr. Dudayev. Since then they have sought to undercut his authority, setting up a new Moscow-controlled administration to reimpose Russian rule in Chechenya. A Chechen spokesman

quoted by Interfax said Wednesday that Mr. Dudayev was at bis military headquarters in the capital Grozny, several hundred metres from the front line separating Russian and Chechen forces.

The arrest warrant was issued as Russian troops hroke through rebel lines in Grozny, crossed the river

Sunzha and set up a hridge-head in an area controlled by the Chechens, according to reports hy Ioterfax.

The ageocy quoted a De-fence Ministry spokesman at the Russian military hase of Mozdok North Osseria, as saying that a Russian unit had captured a bridgehead on the eastern side of the river in southeast Grozny on Wednesday.

A Chechen commander told Interfax news agency the claims were false.

Thousands of Russians and Chechens bave died since President Boris Yeltsin sent troops into the rebel region on Dec. 11 to crush its three-

vear independence bid. Russian troops also redoubled their efforts to push Chechen fighters from Grozny bnt it was increasingly clear Moscow's forces were bogged down in the city

Chechen separatists reported a determined Russian

[Continued on page 7]

facts implicating Iran in the 1988 Lockerbie airline bombing, but Foreign Minister Donglas Hurd said Britain's case against Libya had not changed. The House of Commons hearing came in the wake of a Scottish newspaper report last week that newly released U.S. intelligence

Cannon sounds start of Ramadan

CAIRO (Ageocies) - A hlast from an annique cannon heralded the start of Ramadan in Egypt on Wednesday, as Muslims around the world begin a month of dawn-to-

dusk fasting.
Algeria, Lihya, Morocco, Tunisia, Nigeria, Iran, Jordan and Syria also started Ramadan on Wednesday, a day after Saudi Arabia and most countries in the Arabian

In Pakistan, Ramadan which is calculated according to the sighting of the crescent moon, was set to begin on

The Cairo cannon, known as "Old Fatma," was dusted off, after 11 months of hibernation, and fired early in the morning for the start of It blasts two more times

each day: To signal to the 15

million inhabitants of the

Egyptian capital when to

break the fast with the even-

ing iftar, and then again to

wake up for breakfast,

known as the suhur, just be-

Aideed gunmen loot former U.N. compound

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Militiamen loyal to warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed occupied the former U.N. headquarters compound here Wednesday and emharked on a systematic looting after it was ahandoned by U.N.

The militia of Geoeral Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) moved in the occupy the compound, the former U.S. embassy in the Somali capital, by blocking the main entrances with their pick-up battle-wagons, known as "technicals."

The move came despite pledges by Gen. Aideed and other clan leaders to respect the U.S. property as U.N. troops leave Somalia following the failure of rival warlords to form a government of national unity, and raised fears that rival militias would

fight for the key site. Only a few shots could be heard from within the sprawling compound during the Little of value was left to

appropriate after the 950-

strong Pakistani hattalion

which had guarding the 33-

hectare compound pulled out at 6:00 a.m. (0300 GMT).

Contractors had already removed almost all equip-

already looted everything

port and seaport - will all eave this lawless Horn of Africa country by late March

contractors and the Pakistani security battalion.

U.N. Development Programme offices in the United Nations' southern compound next to the airport on Monday, and most observers here expect fierce fighting for the airport and possibly the seaport as well as soon the last

ment belonging to the United Nations and the U.S. haison office, and shipped it over-"The Pakistanis had

and left us nothing, no geoerators or computers," complained a young would-be looter at one of the gates.
The 8,000 U.N. troops and some 350 U.N. civilians remaining in Somalia — most quartered at Mogadishu's air-

under the protection of a seven-nation U.S.-led task force dubbed "Operation United Shield." They abandoned the main compound on Jan. 15 to the

Militiamen looted the

(Continued on page 3)

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WASHINGTON (AP) washington (AP) — A coalition of prominent U.S. private aid and religious organisations proposed Tuesday a revamping of aid to the Middle East — the one area where Republican aid slashing is expected to have the least impact.

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The group wants cuts in the \$5.1 hillion that goes to Egypt and Israel every year 40 per cent of all U.S. aid - and pushed for regional development aid over selling arms to individual nations.

The group, called the Coalition to Rethink U.S. Aid to the Middle East, includes World Vision. Care, Church World Service! Lutheran World Relief and the Quaker lobbying group Friends Committee on National Legislation.

The proposals respond to the end of the cold war, the continuing struggle for Mideast peace and the anniaid mood in the epublican-controlled U.S. Congress.

With this type of oppor-

tunity, we can either spend our money on more F-15s or on more irrigation projects. said Caleb Rossiter, of the Project on Demilitarisation and Democracy, a coalition

"If we had spent \$20 million in Somalia in the 1980s not on military aid to (Mohammad) Siad Barre, we probably would not bave had to send in troops, lose two dozen Americans and spend \$2 billion." Dictator Siad Barre's ouster in January 1991 led to widespread clan warfare and U.S. intervention 11 months later.

A coalition report, which members said took a year to draft, backed up the proposals with statistics:

In the Middle East, one person in four lives in poverty. On average, Middle Eastern women bear 4.9 children, and the population will dou-hle by 2035. Already, one in five children doesn't have enough to eat. Five million refugees from the Gulf war still live off of relief food.

Yet, only 13 per cent of economic aid to the region goes to basic education and health care, safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition and family planning.

By Dan Perry

The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Racked by

infighting and uncertain ab-

our where to take the falter-

ing peace process. Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin

government is in its deepest

lack of resolve came Mon-

day, when Mr. Rabin

ordered the cancellation of

an unpopular capital gains

tax after first swearing it

would never be imposed

and then vowing not to bow

to public pressure against it.

to boost Mr. Rabin's sag-

ging popularity.

day there isn't."

The move was designed

Instead, it raised new

questions about his credibil-

"This government is

crumbling," said opposition legislator Shaul Yahalom of

the National Religious Par-

ty. "It's a caricature. One

day there is a tax, the next

analyst for the Haaretz dai-

Nebemia Strassler, an

The latest evidence of

And the United States, Britain, France and Russia have sold \$13 billion worth of weapons in the region per year since the end of the cold war, the group noted.

The coalition report outlined a gradual four-step approach by the United States that includes:

- Promoting moves within the region to make Middle Eastern countries trust each

- Helping them to negotiate reduced military forces. Encouraging develop-ment and open political sys-

- Fostering regional cooperation.

"Our proposal does not anticipale an immediate, complete restructuring of assistance to the region but rather a gradual phase-in of changes... as the peace protion report said.

It said while the approach would cut into Israel's \$3 billion and Egypt's \$2.1 billion in military and development aid, it would serve those countries' best interests and those of the region by promoting stability.

Israel and Egypt have re-ceived more U.S. aid tban any other countries since they signed the 1978 Camp David accords leading to a peace treaty the next year.

As Congress has decreased foreign aid in recent years, high levels bave been maintained for both Israel and Egypt, and little change is expected this year. A Republican proposal would cut foreign aid allocations across the hoard but would exempt Israei and Egypt.

The thinking bas prevailed that because the two nations made the first Arab-Jewish peace, their stability and prosperity has to be protected.

"Our study group con-cluded that the Camp David accords are no longer an adequate framework for effective U.S. aid to the region," the report said.

ly, wrote Tuesday that Mr.

Rahin's inconsistency was

behaviour as that of a pre-

mier who tends to bend in

the wind... who is for and

then against, who can't en-dure pressures." Mr. Stras-

sler wrote. "Then the ques-

tion arises, perhaps this is

also the way the premier

will act on other, more fate-

ful issues, such as the peace

A poll published in the

Yedioth Ahronoth daily

found that 47 per cent of

508 Israelis questioned said

that the government's tur-

naround on the tax

Thirty-three per cent said

weakened its credibility.

the move helped the gov-

ernment while 20 per cent

said it had no effect. The

survey, by the Dahaf Agen-

cy, had a four per cent

In parliament Monday,

the government survived a

no-confidence motion

brought by religious parties

be coalition partner. Mr.

including Sbas, a would-

ing Orthodox Church Tel.

margin of error.

process.

The public sees Rabin's

costing him support.

'Total U.S. aid is shrinking while new demands for assistance are rising in the Middle East and elsewhere. This reality makes rethinking aid to the Middle East all the more imperative.'

Lebanon sends security team for U.S. talks

BEIRUT (Agencies) - A seven-man team of Lebanese security officials flew to Washington on Wednesday for talks with U.S. authorities on security issues in Leha-

Lehanon says the two-day talks starting on Monday will concentrate on security for travellers at Beirut airport and bopes they will lead eventually to lifting an eightyear U.S. travel ban on the country.

It says they have nothing to do with the Middle East peace process in which Lebanon's negotiations with Israel have been stalled since late

U.S. officials have said the talks will start a dialogue between the two countries on the security situation in Lebanon in general, including Beirut airport, and the safety for U.S. citizens travelling to Lebanon.

But they say the travel ban imposed during the Lebanese civil war in 1985, which also bars airlines from flying between the United States and Lebanon, is unlikely to be lifted in the near future.

headed by Riad Tabbara. Lebanon's ambassador to Washington, and Robert Peldollar reconstruction plan. letreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East-

The deputy chief of staff of the Lehanese army, Briga-dier Ibrahim Ahbas, was withdrawn from the team at the last minute to emphasise that Beirut would only discuss the airport issue, Lebanese sources said.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and some other Lehanese groups have charged that the talks are a U.S. plot to discuss the Shifte Muslim movement whose fighters are trying to drive Israeli troops from South

Israel and the United States want Beirut to curb Hizbollab before Israel will discuss pulling out of its South Lebanon occupation

A separate mission of Lebanese banking, business, trade and construction officials beaded by Industry and

The delegations will be for Washington on Sunday to tempt U.S. business to invest in Lebanon's multi-billion

> The Reagan administration imposed restrictions on travel to Lebanon in January 1987 amid kidnappings and attacks hy Muslim extremists against Americans and other Wester-

The team's departure, first scheduled for the first week of January, had been delayed because of local opposition.

An official announcement said the seven-member team comprised representatives of the government's various security agencies as well as Beirut airport security and a civil aviation official. American restrictions in-

clude a ban on using U.S. passports for travel to Lebanon, an embargo on use of American airports by Lebanese airliners and prohibition on U.S. jetliners landing in Beirut.

Lebanon bas repeatedly asked Washington to lift the ban, saying it is no longer needed as the government has restored law and order to much of the country.

The restrictions are up for review this month. The State Department last extended the ban in August, saying Lehanon "remains a dangerous place

The U.S. measures were prompted by the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner to Beirut. The hijackers killed an American passenger during the 17-day ordeal.

Suicide bombings on two U.S. embassy buildings and a Marine Corps base in 1983-84 killed 260 Americans. Nearly 100 Westerners

were kidnapped by extremists during the 1975-90 civil war. Seventeen were Americans and three of them died in captivity.

The United States wants strong assurances that the kidnappings and killings of Americans will not be repe-

The Lebanese government has disarmed most private militias. But violence continues to erupt occasionally and the guerrilla war with Israel persists in South Leba-

Kuwait tries to rally Gulf behind Iraq embargo imposed by the United Na-Russia, China and France

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) Kuwait, dismayed by calls from Gulf states for an end to the U.N. embargo on Iraq, is trying to turn the tide sweeping the region in favour of ending Baghdad's four-year isolation.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sbeikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was dispatched to Oman on Monday after the sultanate described international oil and trade sanctions on Iraq as a "disgrace for Arabs.

The official Omani News Agency reported only that Sheikh Sabah met with Oman's Sultan Qaboos, without describing what hap-

pened at the meeting.

A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry official said Sbeikh Sabah was on a mission to restore a united front among the sixmember Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) against Iraq. The GCC states with the

exception of Oman hroke off

ties with Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Such unity has since been shattered however. Qatar, a GCC member, restored diplomatic ties with Iraq in

In the same year, Bahrain's Prime Minister Sbeikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa angered Kuwait by congratulating Iraqi President Saddam

Hussein on his birthday. And in January this year the defence minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rasbed Al Maktum, urged Kuwait to reestablish ties of friendship with the Iraqi people wbo are suffer-

ing from the embargo." His comments went down badly in Kuwait, which was under seven-month Iraqi occupation. The occupation ended only when Iraqi forces were routed by a U.S.-led coalition in the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

The government replied crisply that Kuwait was aware of the suffering of the Iraq! In private, leaders do not

bother to hide thier irritation at Sheikh' Mohammad, also crown prince of Duhai, for his remarks. Out of all GCC states only Saudi Arahia and Kuwait it-

self still support a continua-

tion of the embargo on Iraq,

nons after the 1990 invasion. "This is not a very comfortable position," said Jassem Al Sadoun, economic advisor

to parliament. Oman's stance in favour of Iraq is all the more worrying to Kuwait because it is the only Gulf state with a seat on the U.N. Security Council, a Western diplomat said.

When the Security Council last reviewed sanctions on January 12, the Omani representative also spoke up in favour of easing sanctions for the first time.

Kuwaii's unease was heightened last Friday by a statement from Oman's minister of palace affairs, "Iraq must be helped to overcome its mistakes and come out of its isolation," said Ali Ben Majid Al Muammari. "What is happening to the Iraqi people is a disgrace for

One high-ranking Western diplomat told AFP: "I have the impression that the attitude of Gulf Arab countries worries them (the Kuwaitis) much more than those of the permanent members of the

Mordechai Gur, say openly

that Israel will not imple-

ment stage two of the

antonomy agreement - a

troop pullout from Palesti-

nian towns in the West

Security Council.

— all permanent members have met with stiff opposition from the two other permanent members Britain and the United Stres. However, another diplo-

mat said Kuwait was simply wary of publicly criticising any of the five "powers" sitting permanently on the Security Council. "Kuwaitis never say any-

thing unpleasant about permanent members," the diplomat said. The official line from the Kuwain government is to understand the positions of

the Russian and French gov-Kuwait's Information Minister Sbeikh Saud Nasser

Al Sabah said Saturday that Paris and Moscow were firmcommitted to the conditions set by the U.N. Security Council for the lifting of sanctions on Iraq. But he warned French

businessmen visiting Baghdad against the "mirage" of a "hankrupt regime, incapable military, politically and eco-nomically."

year interim period.

Critics have charged that

the separation idea is prem-

ature nuless Mr. Rahin

agrees to uproot Jewish set-

tlements deep in Arab

areas, which the autonomy

approach be scrapped in

favour of a decisive push

toward a final accord in the

two years Mr. Rabin has left. The prime minister

ascended to power in 1992.

elimination of the threat of

war for generations there

'If this term ends with an

NEWS IN BRIEF Oueen sends co.

Lebanese group to fight 'normalisation'

Muslim and Christian groups on Tuesday set and so the desired of the sent and so the set and so the sent and so the sent and set and so the sent and so the sent and so the sent and se BEIRUT (AFP) — Thirty leading Lebanese figures and 90 sentatives. 'The compromises and treaties signed by Aris' matter of United Sentral Pakraduni, head of a Christian group which was allied will be forum included two forms. the forum included two former prime ministers and it has news of the death deputies, as well as representatives from the Lebanese The news of the death death Party and the Iranian-backed Historian the forum included two former prime ministers and have a separative from the Lebanese Baath Party and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. Also present was the head of Lebanon's highest Shiite Musting and that of the present was the head of Lebanon's highest Shiite Musting and that of the authority, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin, and shealf government of representatives from the Maronite and Greek Orthodox and government of churches. The forum said the "new Middle East order to the regions of the Grant family, members of geographic and historical identity as well as its economic interests. "Normalisation is the other face of occupation? the statement said. "It allows Israel to move forward from finited our sense of occupation to economic hegemony." Steering committee of the death of an above been set up to fight normalisation with Israel across 15 at the death of an heard. They will coordinate with similar control of the heard. the board. They will coordinate with similar groups set up in Egypt and Jordan.

Algeria denies asking israel for help

officially denied a newspaper report that they have executive director requested Israeli cooperation in the fight against militaris. Algerian authorities on Tuesday are executive director requested Israeli cooperation in the fight against militaris. Algerian was not mereally an ambassador in Vienna, Halim Benattallah requested Israeli cooperation in the fight against militaris.

Algeria's ambassador in Vienna, Halim Benattallah, said in the launched progthat the report in the Israeli paper Yediot Aharanot that he
bad contacted his Israeli counterpart Yossef Guvin was
pure fiction. According to the news report, Algeria
proposed setting up a joint group to study measures against
part of children and
proposed setting up a joint group to study measures against
part of children and
proposed setting up a joint group to study measures against
part of children and
proposed setting up a fundamentalists, the daily said. Algeria
part of many and improved the
hardline Islamic fundamentalists, the daily said. Algeria
part of millions of
since early 1992. The Israeli Foreign Ministry Tuesday
refused to confirm or deny the newspaper report, but a since and educate
senior Foreign Ministry official told AFP that Israeli
paint world about the
diplomats had received several requests through third diplomats had received several requests through third parties for meetings with Algerians. "The contents of these messages cannot be revealed," he said. Israel's official position was "not to get involved in what's going on in Algeria," the official added. Mr. Benattaliah said in a statement given to AFP in Vienna that the newspapers report "is pure fiction." He said: "The only cooperation possible is that expected by the Palestinian Anthority to end the continuing Israeb settlement (of the Palestinian occupied territories) which is threatening the Middle Eight (J.T.) - A total of

Clinton envoy due in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — U.S. presidential envoy Richard certificate examina-Beattie is to travel to Turkey on Feb. 9 to discuss initiative and last month, accord-to end the division of Cyprus, the U.S. ambassador said. to end the division of Cyprus, the U.S. ambassador said.

Marc Grossman told journalists that Mr. Beattie would arrive in Ankara ahead of a later visit hy U.S. Assurant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affair Richard Holbrooke, due here on Feb. 20. Both men had had to postpone earlier trips. Mr. Beattie had been due in Ankara last week after first holding talks with the leader of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cypris, before travelling to Athens for further discussion. But he students to get the Tansu Ciller was in Davos, Switzerland, for the World Expossible grades to en-Economic Forum meeting. Economic Forum meeting. 535

153 southern Yemenis return home in amnesty

SANAA (AFP) - More than 150 southern Yemenis who fled the country during the two-month civil war last year. returned to Yemen on Tuesday from the United Arab. Emirates (UAE), officials said. The 153 returned as part of THAT'S GO an "amnesty" declared by President Ali Abdullah Salch during and after the May-July war, the official agency ABA said. Since the beginning of August last year, Yemeni authorities have announced the return of 7,000. refugees both civilians and soldiers, although the aumesty officially expired on August 15. About 10,000 southernersfled when Mr. Saleh's northern troops captured the southern stronghold of Aden. They sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Oman, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The amnesty does not extend to 16 of the ringleaders who headed the move for southern Yemen to break away and become independent. They include former southern leader Ali Salem Beidh, who declared himself president for the breakaway republic, but later fled to

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Shmeisani

the daily Arabic press. Reade isted time and place with the OUD RECT

Ond recital by 'Adi Sahib at Culture and Art on Thursday

EXHIBITIO Book exhibition at the Royal

lwographic exhibition entitled biastry Destroys Nature" at the thibition of abstract art by Mo limition of the works of La lishs at Darat Al Funun. Also

entitled "Phase II-Doors ar ian artist Ghada Dahdalch and irab artists. idecational works depicting the reach Cultural Centre.

thibition of works by Hala in Aqaba.

^{|deed} gunmen lo

-minued from page 1) troops leave.

troops also withdrew the university com-

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adjoining the main on Wednesday, abandoned nearby civilian personnel out of Galkayo and in northeastern on Tuesday, U.N.

George Bennett Mednesday. remain in north

chu, which is under antiol of Gen. Aideed's self-styled presii Mahdi Mohammad, 7007 400 lowhar, north of the

Cabbage Carrot Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) Grape Front Marrow (large) Marrow (small) Onion (green) Onion (dry)

Cairo (Q7) Cairo (MS) HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Banana (Mukammar)

200 / 180 480 / 260 360/ 249 850/500 300 / 200**
300 / 200**
300 / 200**
330 / 200**
330 / 200**
320 / 200**
700*500**
450 / 450 / 250**
330 / 200**
330 / 200**
330 / 200**
350 / 160**
300 / 300**
400/250 Orange
Pepper (hot)
Pupper (sweet)
Potato Radish Spinach

Church of the Assuminciation Tel. 623541. JORDAN TELEVISION Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Tel: 773111-19 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. PROGRAMME TWO

... Dipoido

News in French

N.B.A
Planete En Equation
Road to Avonica

Feature film: "Untamed Love"

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366

17:13 ...

632785.

Bangkok Hilton

(Sunrise) Duba Dhuhr

Maghreb

775261. St. Ephraiza Church Tel. 771751. Anguan International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 684932 Church of Nazarene Tel.67869(, The Evangelical Local Church in

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Sunny weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising slightly. Clouds will appear at different attitudes and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweißeh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. Min./Max. temp. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assumciation Tel. Amman 5 / 16 Aqaba 10 / 21 Jordan Valley 9 / 23

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO). ANALYSIS

Rabin's opponents accused him of desecrating the Sabbath by holding a working meeting last Saturday.

With peace faltering, Rabin is on the ropes

But polls show that if elections were held now, the legislature would be-come predominantly rightwing and Mr. Rabin would be clobbered by opposition head Binyamin Netanyahu, likely spelling the end of peace talks with the Pales-

Mr. Rabin's standing has been slipping for months as it emerged that Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho, established in May. has not improved personal security for Israelis.

The watershed moment appeared to come last Sunday, when two Islamic suicide bombers from Gaza blew themselves up on a busy highway in central Israel, killing 20 soldiers and a civilian. Similar

attacks have killed 54 Israelis since Oct. 1. "A year and a half after

what seemed to have been a historic turning point in the relations of the two peoples, they are sinking deeper and deeper into the mud without an exit," political commentator Uzi Benziman wrote in the liberal Haaretz daily. "The experiment has failed." Polls taken since show

abont 50 per cent of Israelis want Rabin to stop the talks with the PLO - a call sounded even by the generally dovish president, Ezer

Mr. Rabin has argued that would only reward the 'terrorists.' telling bigh school students Monday that the peace process must go on.
"Is h possible to expel two million Palestinians?

Or is it possible, as they (the opposition) promise, to prevent terror?... No. There are no miracle solu-But some officials, like Deputy Defence Minister

Bank - until PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat goes after the Islamic militants in the PLO-ruled areas. And in a subtle shift, Mr. Rabin is now stressing not peace but "separation" between Israelis and Palesti-

Last week officials floated plans for an electronic border fence. On Monday. Police Minister Mosbe border would be patrolled

among Israelis and consis-

Bank, occupied along with the Gaza Strip in 1967. But it is a marked departure from the autonomy accord, which preserved

accord left in place until a final settlement, to be reached by 1999. Reflecting the deep divi-sions within Mr. Rabin's government on how to proceed, some officials are urging the multi-phase

Shahal told parliament the by guard dogs.
The idea is popular

tent with the Israeli left wing's ultimate desire to withdraw from the West

economic interdependence between Israel and the Palestinian areas for a fivewon't be any meaning to the polls," wrote Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin in Haaretz. "But if the polls slow down the peace process, governance will have no meaning."

Mr. Rabin's woes have been multiplied by incessant quarrels in his govern-

FOR THE TRAVELLER

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16. Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN: Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab . Dr. Bassim Caddurei Dr. Bassim Qaddumi 648633 Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916 Dr. Yousef Al Faqib 661912 Fires pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nairoukh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy Yacoub pharmacy . 644945 Naiib pharmacy ...

637660 . 847632 Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743 Alguds pharmacy (—) ZARQA: Dr. Khalil Abu Hussem 985000

EMERGÉNCIES Food Control Centre 63711 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

me Police 192. 621111. 637777 Fire Brigade 617101 Blood Bank... Highway Police
Traffic Police . 896390 Public Security Department Hotel: Complaints Price Complaints
Water and Sewerage 807467 Complaints 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230

Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 623101 Radio Jordan 815615 Company 636381 RJ Flight Information ... 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 636381

AMMAN:

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine Shmeisani Shmeisani Hospital 669131 U2iversity Hospital Al-Muasher Hospital The Islamie, Abdali 845845 . 666127/37 Al-Ahh. Abdali 6641646
Ilalian. Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir. J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 801611/15
Oucen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)277275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

Protects Haya Hospital (03)*14111

QUEEN ALIA **INTERNATIONAL**

AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian [RI] information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200. 5, where it should always be veri-fied. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Terminal 11

Agaba (RJ) Riyadh (RJ) New Delhi (RI) Colombo

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Filahts (Terminal 1) Beirut (RJ) 10:40 10:45

DEPARTURES

61:10

..... Aqaba (RJ)
.... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ) ------ Rome (R.i) tt:55 Paris (RJ London (RJ 12-00 Cairo (RI) Bahrain, Doha (RI) 22:18 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

17:58 Paris, Damascus (AF) 28:05 Cairo (MS)

..... Muscat, Doha (GF) Sharqah (AH)

Riyadh (SV)
Dubai (EK)
Doha (Q7)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) 08:15 Beirut (ME) 10:55 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) Algiers (AH)
Riyadh (SV)
Dubai (EK) t3:30

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Art. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Mondry
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sandry
Art. Amasum 5:00 p.m. every Sandry 150 / 80 230/120 150/80

> الماسعة المساسم

but no troops remain the capital. personnel will relocated to Moga-ont and airfield." Mr. are in south Mogathich is mostly conby Gen. Aideed's to Mr. Ali Mahdi hold but Abgal militias
lo Mr. Ali Mahdi hold
lat beside the airport. security of the U.S. by both Gen guaran-

by both Gen. Aideed Ali Mahdi as well as Abgal commander in both Mr. Yalaho and

Mu HAN WANT

Queen sends condolences to U.N. secretary general

MMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday sent a letter of condolences to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on the death of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director James Grant Following is the text of Queen Noor's letter:

The news of the death of James Grant has left us deeply saddened. On our own behalf and that of the people and government of Jordan, King Hussein and I would like to express to you, to the Grant family, and to all the members of the United Nations system our grief and our sense of loss at the death of an exceptional human being and an exemplary international civil servant.

We and many others around the world will long celebrate James Grant's temure as executive director of UNICEF. His greatest achievement was not merely to have launched programmes and initiatives that saved the lives of tens of millions of children and women, and improved the health and well-being of hundreds of millions of others. It was his ability to inspire, cajole and educate the entire world about the eapacity of even the

poorest countries to improve and sustain the survival rates and life quality of their children, using low-cost, simple technologies and the empowerment of mothers and families with

knowledge.
The World Summit for Children in 1990 may have been the high point of his career, bringing together an unprecedented number of national leaders to affirm their commitment to improving the well-being of the world's children.

Mr. Grant always carried in his pocket a small sachet of oral rehydration salts. It reflected his conviction of how great deeds could be accomplished through relatively simple means. Perhaps the greatest testa-ment to Mr. Grant's person and life is that the power and the fruits of his convictions will continue to save and to improve the lives of women and children around the world, even after his death. In their lives and hearts, consciously or not, they now carry a picture and a memory of James Grant

May his soul rest in peace and his memory enjoy God's blessings. Dr. Grant passed away in

New York on Jan. 28 at the

Literary, scientific stream record highest tawjihi scores

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify

the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

OUD RECITAL

Oud recital by 'Adi Sahib at the Phoenix Gallery for

EXHIBITIONS

★ Photographic exhibition entitled "To Be or Not to Be —

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Mohammad Labadi at Alia

☆ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al

★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the

☆ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra

Aideed gunmen loot compound

Aideed ally Mohammad

Qanyare Afrah warned in in-terviews with AFP that their

sides would fight for it if the

other side occupied it.
U.S. Ambassador Daniel

Simpson said last week that

the main faction leaders and

more than 50 elders had

force delegation in Moga-dishu then that they would

guarantee the security of the

Wednesday described it,

however, as "a site under our

dered the airport as the terri-

tory of their respective sides,

and would fight for it if need

Wednesday, Mr. Afrah said the militias would 'react

aggressively" if U.S. troops

remained in Mogadishu for

more than a week during the

of implying that the U.S. troops would "capture Mogadishu," and said: "We don't

want to see U.S. marines in

Mogadishn's streets. They

must limit their military exer-

cise to the seaport and air-

He accused the U.N. force

final evacuation.

In a press conference

legitimate control." Both Mr. Afrah and Mr. Yalaho told AFP they consi-

As SNA official on

compound.

assured a high-level task

French Cultural Centre.

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. troops also withdrew

rom the university com-

cound adjoining the main compound on Wednesday,

and ahandoned oearhy

theck-points.

U.N. civilian personnel pulled out of Galkayo and

Bossasso in northeastern

Somalia on Tuesday, U.N. spokesman George Bennett

said on Wednesday.
Some remain in north

Mogadishu, which is under

the control of Gen. Aideed's

arch-rival, self-styled Presi-

dent Ali Mahdi Mohammad,

and in Jowhar, north of the

capital, but no troops remain

now be relocated to Moga-

dishn port and airfield," Mr.

Both are in south Moga-

dishu, which is mostly con-

trolled by Gen. Aideed's

militias, but Abgal militias loyal to Mr. Ali Mahdi hold

the strategic enclave of Medi-na just beside the airport.

The security of the U.S. compound had been guaranteed by both Gen. Aideed

and Mr. Ali Mahdi as well as

the Ahgal commander in

Medina, Musa Sudi Yalaho, hut both Mr. Yalaho and

"All U.N. personnel will

outside the capital.

Bennett said.

J.N. troops leave.

International Hotel in Aqaba.

Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibi-

tion entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jorda-

nian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary

Industry Destroys Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Culture and Art on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

MMAN (J.T.) — A total of ,383 scientific stream and 54 literary stream tawjihi udents obtained 90 per cent ad over in the mid-year eneral certificate examinaons held last month, accordig to Mohammad Obeidat, irector of the Examinations Department at the Ministry

f Education Wednesday. Dr. Obeidat said in a statenent to the Jordan News agency, Petra, that the high Tres this year were the renit of extra efforts on the part of the students to get the nighest possible grades to enaire their entry into universines and partly because this year, the questions set by the Ministry of Education were more clearly and adequately prepared for the benefit of the students

A total of 84,361 students in the scientifie, literary, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management streams were registered for the mid-year examinations. Sixty-seven students had their exams cancelled for violating rules or cheating, according to Dr.

The tawjihi students whose examination results were published last week are still to take the end-of-yearexamination in May, and the Ministry of Education will calculate the final results on the average of the two ex-



Jordan to join in marking U.N.'s 50th anniversary

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali Wednesday launched the organisation's 50th anniversary commemoration at a ceremony at U.N. head-quarters in New York.

To mark the beginning of celebrations, the secretary-general will inaugurate a year-long United Nations exhibit of the original U.N. Charter.

A world wide programme of events, involving the entire U.N. system and nearly all of its 185 member states, is expected to culminate in a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly from Oct. 22-24,

National committees for the 50th anniversary have already been established in 100 countries, including Jor-

The Jordanian committee is headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and incorpo-rates participants from the ministries of Education, Higher Education, Youth, Information, Communication, Culture and Social Development, as well as representatives from the Royal Scientific Society and the

Anniversary activities focus on educational efforts designed to reach a broad andience, especially the young. A source from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the Jordan Times that activities in Jordan will take place all year, but that they will centre on the week from March 13 to April 7, and will involve televised speeches by the foreign minister, the United Nations representatives in Jordan and a member of Jordan's mission to the U.N. exhibitions on U.N. activities

and sports events. Schools will be encouraged to hold classroom discussions on the role and functions of

In an effort to draw attention to the involvement of Jordanian troops in U.N. peacekeeping missions, a Jordan Television camera team will visit members of Jordan's peace-keeping forces on location in Croatia, Angola and Haiti. In addition, commemorative stamps and coins bearing the U.N. emblem will be issued shortly.

Asked whether he felt that... Jordanians had reason to eelehrate the 50th anniversary of an organisa-

World, Adnan Ahn Odeh, Jordan's ambassador to the U.N., replied that as the only international organisation of its kind, and the only body to address global issues such as poverty, the environment and human rights, the United Nations served the interests of everyone, including Jorda-

Bnt other voices were more eritical. A former Jordanian ambassador to U.N. offices in Geneva told Jordan Times that Jordanians want the U.N. to be more effective in implementing its resolutions and adopt one standard on human rights and

on nuclear weapons.

They would also like to see a more democratically constituted Security Council, less hnreaneracy, an end to favouritism in the recruitment for U.N. posts and an end to duplication of U.N. efforts by its various regional

During the anniversary year, the U.N. is convening the World Summit for Social Development, which will take place in Copenhagen in March, and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September.

Vegetable oil export dispute settled between Jordan, Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A dispute between Jordanian exporters and Iraqi importers over Jordanian vegetable oil exports to Iraq has been settled with the mediation of the Amman Chamber of Indus-try, officials said Wednesday.

We have found a compromise formula acceptable to both sides, and we expect the exports to resume soon." said Walid Al Khatib, general director the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Mr. Khatih said the Iraqi side had agreed to raise the price of vegetable oil to \$865 per tonne and was in the process of amending the reated letters of credit.

The problem arose when the vegetable oil processors and exporters found themselves unable to execute orders of abont 63,000 tonnes from Iraq at the prices originally agreed upon since international prices of raw material - mainly Malaysian palm oil - shot up dramati-

cally in the past few months. Jordanian exporters had received orders of about 75.000 tonnes of vegetable oil. The letters of credit provided for partial shipments but were non-negotiable as

far as prices were concerned. The exporters — four major companies — shipped about 15,000 tonnes before the hike in international prices of palm oil increased their cost of output.

The exporters sought to renegotiate the prices, but in view of the conditions of the letters of credit they were unable to do so. The Iragi importers insisted on the prices that were originally agreed upon, and hence the deadlock.

The price of Malaysian palm oil meanwhile went up from \$500 a tonne. The Iraqi government, pressed because of the shortage of oil in the country, bought 10,000 ton-nes at a higher price to meet urgent demands, but the dispute was not settled.

Iragi government officials and importers raised the deadlock with a delegation headed hy Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, which visited Iraq early this month, and requested the chamber's intervention to resolve the dispute.

The Iraqi side argued that any substantial raise in prices for vegetable oil was unacceptable because of the resultant increase in the market prices in Iraq.
After intense discussions

with representatives of the exporting firms, the Amman Chamber of Industry proposed the compromise and it was accepted by both sides.

"There was enough goodwill on both sides to resolve the problem and we expect the orders to be executed soon." said Mr. Khatib of the cham-

The solution to the problem was seen as crucial to Jordanian industries' efforts to rebuild their relations with Iraq after a period of relative absence from the Iraqi market as a result of difficult business conditions posed by the four-year-old sanctions against that country.

Several Jordanian business delegations visited Iraq in the past six months, and some of the traders who were in the teams said they were told that Jordanian exporters have to adjust their business practices and banking requirements if they hoped to do business with Iraq.

However, most others said the Iraqi side was highly postitive to Jordanian efforts to resume the Kingdom's role as a key supplier to Iraq. But, they said, the Iraqis were asking for "more patience and cooperation" from the exporters until the sanctions

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Israel to begin mail exchange

AMMAN (J.T.) - Jordanians and Israelis will be able to exchange mail starting Feb. 6 in implementation of the provisions of the according to an announcement by the Ministry of Post and Communications Wednesday. The announcement said the ministry also made the necessary arrangements for the Trade minister meets exchange of postal services between Jordan and the self-rule areas of Palestine in accordance with the Jan. 26 agreement between the two sides signed in Amman hy the concerned

Qaraeen tipped to head meteorology

ment of meteorology said that three senior concern to France and Jordan.

department officials are being reviewed for the post of director general for the department. Among the candidates is senior staff member Amin Qaraeen, who is tipped to be next in line for the job. The next director general and deputy will follow current Direc-tor General Ali Abanda and Deputy Director Jordan-Israel peace accord signed on Oct. 26. Rafiq Shaker, who both will retire after the expiration of their contracts this month.

Lebanese, French envoys

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Wednesday met Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan William Habih and discussed Jordanian-Lebanese cooperation in industry and trade affairs. The minister later met French Ambassador Ber-AMMAN (J.T.) - A source at the depart- nard Bajolet and discussed issues of common

Man kills sister, injures other for 'immoral behaviour'

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — One woman was killed and another was seriously injured after being shot by their brother in Ain Janeh town in Ailoun for what the slaver described as "immoral behavionr," according to

The women identified as Nabilah A., 23, and Najah A., 32, were shot several times by their brother Mahmoud A., who surrendered to police immediately, one source told the Jordan Times.

The 40-year-old man confessed to committing the crime, said the source speaking on condition of anonymity.

According to the source, Nabilah, who died on the way to hospital, was shot in her home after being re-leased from prison Tuesday. She had served eight months for becoming pre"Nabilah told police that

a man promised to marry her and took advantage of her, and when police questioned the man they discovered that he was married and he refused to marry that woman," the source

Nabilah delivered her baby in jail, the source said. She was released after her father signed a guarantee that she would not be harmed, be added.

In a heated argument, the source said, Mahmoud accused Najah of covering up her sister's pregnancy. He drew a gun and shot hoth women, said the SOURCE

An Ajloun police official contacted by the Jordan Times Wednesday would only confirm that Nabilah had been killed, and that her sister was shot and injured, but he declined to give any further details until the investigations are over." Manmond has been arrested pending investiga-

Both women were taken to Al Iman Hospital in Ajloun. Nabilah was declared dead on arrival, while her sister, Najah was listed in critical condition and was transferred to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid the same evening.

An official at Princess Basma Hospital told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the victim was in fair condition and is expected

This is the first "crime of honour" to be reported in the Kingdom since the be-ginning of 1995.

Last year, the Public. Security Department (PSD) reports showed that crimes of honour ranked highest among the total number of reported crimes in the Kingdom. There were 24 reported honour crimes, of the 87 reported murders in Jordan.



Team studies U.S.-financed Egyptian project in water

plementation of a U.S.-financed project to improve the quality of water in Jor-dan, a team from the Minis-try of Water and Irrigation, led by Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani, last week visited Egypt where they examined a similar pro-ject heing established in

different parts of the country. Dr. Bani Hani said that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is financing the \$11 million, four-year project in the King-

The team has studied the Egyptian project, also fi-nanced by USAID, during a week-long tour of its sites, and hopes to benefit from the Egyptian experience here; said Dr. Bani Hani.

The ministry plans to set up a special centre for the development of human resources involved in the wa-TET SECTOR, following the example of Egypt in order to ensure the success of the scheme, said Dr. Bani Hani.

He said the project, which has been in progress for one year, aims at helping the ministry to draw up a water policy, deal with industrial pollntion, protect the environment, carry out artificial feeding of water in artesian wells, execute awareness

programmes on conserving water, and establishing a data bank to provide water-related information.

The ministry's awareness programmes are already under way and being im-plemented in cooperation with voluntary groups and the Ministry of Education, but other parts of the projects. are still in the pipeline, said

Dr. Bani Hani. During the tour in Egypt. Dr. Bani Hani added, the Jordanian team met with the Egyptian minister of public works and water resources among other Egyptian officials, and discussed cooperation in water affairs.

india d

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

A large investment holding company seeking to promote economic development in Palestine through investing in industrial, infrastructure and tourism projects is looking to recruit for the following positions:

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST:

Must have a university degree in Finance or Accounting from a reputable university. MBA in business or related fields is a definite plus.

Must have at least 10 years of experience in financial analysis, feasibility studies, corporate finance, and thorough knowledge of computer based financial modelling and forecasting techniques.

INVESTMENT ANALYST:

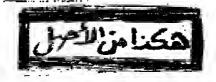
Must have a university degree in Finance or Accounting from a reputable university.

Must have at least 5 years of experience in financial analysis, feasibility studies, corporate finance, and thorough knowledge of computer based investment analysis techniques.

The positions are based in Amman, although applicants must be willing to relocate to Palestine in the future.

Applicants should send their CV's to the following address;

Investment Department P.O.Box 6181, Amman 11118, Jordan or contact Mrs. Faten at telephone no. 647837



AIDS vaccine created that self-destructs on cue

- Scientists searching for a safe AIDS vaccine said Tuesday they have created one with a built-in time bomb - a gene that will cleanse it from the body on cue.

Researchers believe the most effective AIDS vaccine is likely to be a live virus, which will prime the body to mount a spirited reaction to HIV. Many, though, worry about giving healtby people even a weakened form of the AlDS virus, since it might cause cancer, immune suppression or even AIDS.

So now a team from the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases has come up with a novel strategy: A live but weakened AIDS virus that can be killed off once it does s iob.

A team headed by Dr. Ruan-Teh Jeang created a form of the AIDS virus that carries an extra gene taken from the Herpes virus. Because of this gene, cells that become infected with the rirus can be selectively descroyed with Ganciclovir, a ridely available herpes medi-

"We attempted to improve he safety of an HIV vaccine using a suicide gene," said Dr. Stephen M. Smith, who presented the results at an AIDS meening sponsored by he American Society for √iicrobiology.

Dr. Smith said the approach looks promising in he test tube. But much more .esting, including extensive use in monkeys, will be necessary before it can be ried on people. He said human studies are at least three ears away.

"It's a terrifically imaginative approach and one we need to follow closely," said Dr. William Paul, director of the U.S. office of AIDS re-

While other experts at the conference found the idea

VIENNA (AFP) - Austria's

coalition government of So-

cial Democrats and Con-

servatives was on the brink of

collapse due to differences

over the country's budget,

politicians and national news-

LONDON' (R) - Princess

Diana's bold, sleeked-back hairstyle, revealed at a New

York fashion gala, drew mixed reviews Wednesday af-

ter she arrived back in Britain

America's top fashion desig-

ners when she attended the

Council of Fashion Designers

annual awards dinner Mon-

day in a slinky, low cut dress

sporting the wet vamp look

made famous by Madonna.

raved about the new look

favoured by fashion models

and film stars but reaction in

looks lovely." hair expert Jackie Wadeson told the Sun

"Gone was the shy shop-

girl... replaced instead by a

confident female version of

Wall Street's Gordon Gek-

ko." said London's Evening

pleased with Princess Diana's

new image.
"The old hairstyle was

frumpy, but at least it was

pretty. This one makes her

look like a victim." said Kate

Reardon, style director of

Tatler magazine, was quoted

25 saying. Jeff Banks, presenter of

Britain's The Clothes Show,

was also not impressed. "She

has a lovely face but her nose

is quite prominent and with a

feature like that it is not a

good idea to grease the hair

back." he told the Daily

Britain's top-selling Sun

newspaper even launched a

But not everyone was

newspaper.

Standard.

Britain was more muted. "The new style is very Madonna-ish. I think she

New York fashion experts

Princess Diana dazzled

from her one-day visit.

Dr. Ronald Desrosiers of the New England Regional Primate Centre is one of the country's leading advocates of a live AIDs vaccine. He is developing versions that will produce a chronic infection, but not sickness, because one or more of their genes have been crippled.

Dr. Desrosiers said he doubts the suicide gene will work. HIV is likely to mutate quickly inside the body and loose the extra gene, thereby making it unkillable, he contends.

"When the virus has a gene

University of Washington, a herpes expert, raised the pos-sibility the vaccine might not work in people who already have herpes. He worried that the body might kill off an AIDS virus that carries a herpes gene before it can trigger an immune response. In testing so far, Dr. Smith

that Ganciclovir can destroy the virus-infected blood cells if given quickly after the cells are exposed. But within 48 hours, the virus has already begun to shed its extra herpes He said the next step is to

re-engineer the virus, putting the extra gene in a spot that is less likely to be dropped Dr. Paul questioned

whether one exposure to the weakened virus will be enough to produce longlasting immunity against AIDS. Dr. Smith said it may be necessary to give booster shots from time to time. Meanwhile, AIDS is now

the leading cause of death among Americans aged 25 to 44, according to new federal statistics that show HIV infection spreading fastest among women and minor-

Murayama hurt by poor disaster management TOKYO (Agencies) — The Japanese government's clumsy handling of the Kobe ear-thurse disperse.

thouake disaster has sapped popular support for Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's cabinet, according to a newspaper poll released Wednesday. In its first poll since Mr.

The U.S. Centres for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention

(CDCI said Tuesday that

HIV infection surpassed un-

intentional injuries as the 25-

44 age group's leading cause

of death in 1994, when more

than 80.000 new AIDS cases

death were cancer, heart dis-

ease and murder and suicide.

cases in 1994 were about a

fifth of all U.S. cases re-

ported since 1981 and pro-

vide the clearest depiction to

date of the magnitude and

straight up like the side of a mountain," said Dr. John Ward, the CDC's AIDS sur-

veillance chief. But despite

the rise of the epidemic, Dr.

Ward said the public has

shown increasing signs of

war footing for the first five

to 10 years of the epidemic

where we had this fear as

celebrities developed AIDS

etc," he said.
"But just because it's now

becoming familiar doesn't

mean we should accept it as a

part of life that people are going to die of AIDS. There's

a lot we can do about it. We

can actually prevent it, which

is not what you can say about

An estimated one million

Americans are infected by

the HTV virus that causes

.acquired immune deficiency

syndrome (A1DS). Since

19g1, more than 441,500

cases of full-blown AIDS

have been reported. Women

now account for 18.1 per cent

of all reported AIDS cases,

up form 16.2 per cent in 1993.

A bigger increase occurred

among blacks, who

accounted for 39 per cent of

new HIV infections last year

- up from 36.1 per cent in

1993. The rate for Hispanics

increased to 18.7 per cent

from 17.7 per cent.

a lot of things, like brain cancer," Dr. Ward said.

We were on this sort of

complacency.

"The HIV curve is going

nature of the epidemic.

Other leading causes of

The number of new AIDS

were reported.

Murayama admitted his government was slow to respond to the tragedy, the Yomiuri Shimbun found public backing had slipped to the point where those disapproving of tbe cabinet outnumbered supporters.

It was the first such negafive result for Mr. Murayama since a survey in July last year, shortly after he became prime minisiter at the head of a three-way coalition govern-

In the weekend survey covering 3,000 voters, 44.7 per cent of respondents dis-approved of Mr. Murayama's government, up 5.3 percentage points from a survey in December. The support rate was down by 4.0 points from the previous poll to 40.8 per

The Yomiuri said the drop in Murayama's popularity could be traced to his poor handling of disaster relief operations after the Kobe earthquake on Jan. 17, Japan's worst natural disaster since World War II.

The government has faced stinging criticism over delays in dispatching relief to the victims and responding to offers of help from other

Until the latest sounding, support for Mr. Murayama had always exceeded the disapproval rating, except for last July's survey.

As of Wednesday, the official death toll from the central Japan earthquake stood at 5,102, with 11 people still listed as missing. Officials in Kobe city have said the figure could reach more than 5,400,

Russia shipped 4,500 winter coats and other humanitarian aid to Japan in a goodwill gesture Tuesday for victims of the Jan. 17 earth-

The aid shipment also included 1,000 blankets, 1,000 pairs of gloves, and sheets, towels and disposable dishes. It will go to refugees of the quake, which ravaged the Japanese port city of Kobe and killed more than 5,000

"It's a gesture of our support and concern toward other needy nations," said Anatoly Streltsov, spokesman for the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

The ministry has been under extra strain recently, sending humanitarian aid to tens of thousands of Russia's own refugees in and around war-torn Cehchenya. The region also received humanitarian aid from the United Na-

"This small shipment (to Japan) cannot even be compared to the tonnes of goods we're sending to Chechenya," Mr. Streltsov

Japan had previously been reluctant to accept outside assistance for quake victims, turning down offers including one to anchor an American aircraft carrier in Kobe Bay to house injured and home-

But the Japanese embassy in Moscow expressed appreciation for the Russian aid

Hundreds of thousands of quake refugees are living in unheated shelters set up in gymnasiums, schools and public buildings in Kobe. Meanwhile Washington's

top disaster relief official said Wednesday Japan and the United States should share their experiences in recovery

Quake victims carry out belongings from their collapsed homes in Kobe city. It is now 15 days since the massive earthquake struck, and the latest toll stands at S,102, with 11 persons missing (AFP photo) response was:"

from major earthquakes but refused to comment on Japan's slow response.

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), said his purpose in Japan was not to pass judgment on the Japanese government's re-cord in the Jan. 17 Kobe earthquake.

"We are here to share our experience from an earthquake similar to the one which you (Japan) had," Mr. Witt told a news conference.

"We are here to help you with the recovery, how fast vou can achieve recovery, from the disaster... we are not here to see how fast the

Mr. Witt's team of nine U.S. disaster specialists was sent to Japan under an agreement between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama soon after the Kobe earthquake.

FEMA directed relief efforts after the January 1994 earthquake that rocked Northridge, California.

A Foreign Ministry official who attended a meeting between Mr. Witt and Foreign Minsiter Yohei Kono told reporters Mr. Witt said swift coordination between central and local authorities was a key factor in successfully handling the Northridge case.

Johnny Hallyday honoured by France

CANNES (AP) — Longtime French rocker Johnny Hally day admits it's ironic the French government is how ouring him with the "Office Of Arts And Letters" title even though he just recorded an all-English album. Culture Minister Jacques Toubon while battling the increases use of English in Francisco formally gave Hallyday honour late Tuesday man after the singer gave a tracer tat the Midem Mines
Trade Fair. "It is strange the
decorates me and I single
English," the 51-years? English," the 51-years. Hallyday told a news com ence earlier Tuesday proves that languages have no borders." But Hallyday, new Rought Town allows comes at a time when the French government is doing dominance of Anglo American music in France The French government plans to enforce a new law beginning next year that will require that French groups make up at least 40 per cent of radio play. Another law requires that all advertising in a foreign language have a French translation. Mr. Toubon defended the radio quota and his decorating Hallyday. "I also decorate Anglo-American singers," he told a separate news conference. At the 29th Midem, weeklong fair attended by nearly 10,000 industry representatives and journalists worldwide, Mr. Toubon proposed taxing all music producers in France to sup-port struggling French artists.

Directors buy Shepperton studios for £12m

LONDON (R) — Two British brothers who became inp Hollywood directors bough the legendary Shepperton Film Studios Wednesday for £12 million (\$19.11 million and promised to attract blockbuster movies. Ridie Scott, director of Alien and Blade Runner, and his brother Tony, who made Top Gun and Beverly Hills Cop II, said they wanted to transform Shepperton into a top world studio. This will be a major boost to Britain's flagging film industry. In its her day, Shepperton produced huge international hits like Oliver and The Guns Of Navarone. A more recent success was Four Weddings And A Funeral, Top British film directors and stars, frustrated by the lack of opportunities at home, have migrated to Hollywood. British actors and actresses like Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson have scooped coveted Oscars. The Scott brothers said they planned to spend about £10 million (\$15.93 million) over the next five years expanding facilities at Shepperton. They would

'Give nuisance sex-callers a shrill earful'

Europe.

actively promote Shepperton in both the United States and

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) - Women who suffer sexua harassment from anonymous telephone calls are recommended to give the nuisance callers a shrill riposte to set their ears ringing for days. In advice issued Tuesday, the Bavarian Criminal Investigation Department said many women felt uneasy when the phone rang. But instead of just hanging up when bothered by callers of the 'heavy breather" variety. they should blow hard through a whistle into the mouthpiece.

30% of Filipino women report abuse

MANILA (AFP) — Thirty

per cent of Filipino women

reported being physically abused by their husbands or someone close to them, according to the results of s Health Department survey obtained here Wednesday. The survey of 8,481 women, aged 15 to 49, conducted in 1993 but only made public more than a year later, also found that 12 per cent of the women reported being abused even during pregnancy. Three per cent of the women surveyed said they had been raped or forced to have sex with a man but only 10 per cent of those raped said they had sought help from law-enforcers afterwards. The survey found that abuse was highest among women 20 years old and below - 15 per cent - and lowest among the welleducated at six per cent.

MSTERDAM (R) - Bat-

and by Western Europe's foods of the century the Weberlands faced fresh peril widnesday as ancient dikes malened to give way and mamp the vulnerable. low-There was no respite for

the past week eased in France, Belgium and Ger-Thousands more people rere told to flee their homes

with and east of the country has already made 250,000 reple homeless. Europe's bloated rivers usin churned water through

More than two thirds of Dutch people live below sea wel, behind their ancient nework of dikes along rivers

hm beneath, placing hun-

ises the longer the water

pressure is maintained."

ROME (R) - Italy's Prime

support of leftists, centrists Dec. 22, decided not to vote

The coalition formally ab-

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland and Britain strongly denied a

drafting a peace plan to bring lieland and Northern Ireland closer than at any time since Partition 70 years ago. Irish Prime Minister John Bruton and British officials said the London Times report could damage 13-month-old efforts by London and Dub

in to settle the Northern Ireland conflict.

waves in Belfast, London and In London, Britain' Nonhern Ireland Secretary

Sir Patrick Mayhew termer the report "absolute rubbish" and a senior government official said the account was count with the count was the cou o the peace process."

Mt. Bruton said: "An selective leak is inherent!

wrong and misleading." H
agued that the Times stor

The Times published who it said was a leak from Dublin source of a so-calle hanework document the two

that it doesn't need, it will just spit it out," Dr. Desro-Dr. Lawrence Corey of the

said, researchers have shown

gene through mutation.

through random mutation.

Austrian government in crisis. started a new term of office

only two months ago. Erhard Busek, vicechancellor and president of the ruling Conservative People's Party (OEVP), said the government had a 50/50 chance of falling.

capers said Wednesday. The country's most widely Finance Minister Ferdiread newspaper nand Lacina of the Social Kronenzeitung reported "coalition near to breaking-Democratie Party (SPOE), which has shared power with point", while "government crisis" was the headline in the the Conservatives since 1987, has threatened to resign if the large circulation Kurier news-1995 budget deficit surpasses 100 billion schillings (about paper amid a dispute over proposed tax increases within the government, which spending cuts, the deficit is

Diana's wet look draws mixed reviews

billion schillings.

An austerity plan to cut spending by between 250 and cial Democrats. The spend-

paign, The nnions have complained that the plan will affect important social spending and damage the poorest

expected to reach 160 or 170

350 billion schillings (\$25-30 billion) over the next four years has provoked outrage from the trade unions, who are closely linked to the Soing plan was not mentioned during the last election cam-

U.S. panel votes to cut U.N. peacekeeping funds WASHINGTON (R) - A amendments which sought to At the end of last year,

split House International Relations Committee Tuesday voted to limit U.S. contribunons to U.N. peacekeeping over White House protests that it would cripple the world body's peacekeeping forces. The Republican majority

pushed the legislation through on a partisan vote of 23 to 18 even though the adminstration's foreign policy and defence team had registered strong objections. During a contentious debate, the Republicans united preserve the president's ability to deploy U.S. troops in U.N. operations as he saw fit.

The United Nations legislation is one of the top items on the agenda of the new Republican majority in the House and its prospects for rapid passage in the full House are good.

The measure would essentially pass on Washington's cost for voluntary peacekeeping - currently running at about \$1.2 billion a year - to the United Nations, whose

ing is about \$3.6 billion.
Secretary of State Warren Christopher issued dire warnings on the future of U.N. peacekeeping in his appearance before the committee last week.

"The result would be financial chaos. Under certaina circumstances, it would threaten to end U.N. peacekeeping overnight," he

He predicted that once the

United States limited its funds, other major contributors, namely Japan and

U.S. troops were involved in U.N. peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in Iraq, Bosnia, Macedonia, the Adriatic Sea, Rwanda and the Caribbean. But of the more than 63,000 U.N. peacekeepers on 17 missions around the world, less than two per cent are American.

Republican efforts to trim U.S. involvement in U.N. peacekeeping were fuelled by the deaths in 1993 of 18 U.S. soldiers on a U.N. peacekeeping mission in

Simpson prosecutors to continue character attack LOS ANGELES (Agencies)

- After a day of courtroom fireworks in which O.J. Simpson was said to have beaten and terrorised his wife, with no mention that he allegedly murdered her, prosecutors Wednesday were set to continue their onslaught on the football legend's char-

Prosecutors introduced police witnesses Tuesday who testified that Simpson beat, slapped and made his thenwife Nicole fear he would kill ber during a Jan. 1, 1989, fight triggered by his having sex with a female employee at their bome.

1989 incident. But at the end of Tuesday's

talked about Simpson taking a polygraph test and added:
There are allegations in a book about which I'm aware that suggests that Mr. Simpson discussed some sort of a dream with Mr. Shipp."

cause I had some dreams about killing her."

The book also quotes three lies detector experts as saving that often people who say they had bad dreams about a

ments on the motion were to be heard Wednesday ontside the jury's presence.



This still frame taken from a television broadcast shows a photograph of Nicole Brown Simpson entered into evidence at the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial. The photo, from an Jan. 1, 1989 incident in which O.J. Simpson pleaded no contest to spousal battery,

fame on the playing field into a career as sportscaster, actor and TV pitchman, is on trial for the brutal stabbing death murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, on June 12, 1994 - charges to which

he has pleaded not guilty. The word murder, and Goldman's name, however, were never uttered before the jury Tuesday as the prosecunon introduced its first witnesses in possibly the most sensational and certainly the most publicised trial ever held in the United States.

Instead, prosecutors sought to reveal the dark side of the man who has become known to an adoring public as "O.J., the nice guy," by portraying him as a habitual wife beater.

The jury also saw Tuesday a different side of the other "nice guy" in the trial, lead defence attorney Johnnie Cochran, who had sought to beguile and win the panellists with his charm and conversational attitude during his opening statement.
Mr. Cochran took the gloves off Tuesday, attacking the testimony of police witnesses in aggressive tones previously unheard by jurors.

help (AFP photo)

The most dramatic testimony Tuesday came from detective John Edwards, who was a patrolman when he answered a police emergency call for belp at the Simpson house early on Jan. 1, 1989 and discovered an hysterical, partly-clad Nicole Brown Simpson running from the bushes, screaming: "He's going to kill me.'

When she later calmed down and went to a police station with Mr. Edwards, she said the fight started because Simpson had sex withone of two women employees in the house "before she went to bed with him" that night. The woman was not identified in court, and Mr. Edwards said he did not mention the reason for the fight in his report to spare Simpson bad publicity.

On cross examination, Mr.

Cochran threw off the veneer of gentility, pointing out that Mr. Edwards had failed to interview anyone else in the house present at the time. including the housekeeper who had told him nothing was amiss.

highlights the cut lip and bruises on ber face.

The photo was presented during testimony by

Los Angeles Police Detective John Edwards.

who answered Mrs. Simpson's 1989 call for

He also attacked the officer over polariod photographs taken later at the west Los Angeles police station which purported to show Nicole's injuries a cut lip, a black eye, a swollen cheek bone and slap marks. Mr. Cochran insisted that

the jury looked at the photographs, rather than the images of them shown on a large screen in the high-tech, computerised courtroom, saying they did not show the injuries described by Mr. Ed-

But with his graphic description of a battered Nicole, Mr. Edwards set the stage for a prosecution portrait of a celebrated public figure with a dark private

(alogue's suburb of Kasselber the River Rhine which can only floods bring

ing nation. by Dutch as vast floods that andfed much of Europe for

the Netherlands biggest her peacetime evacuation. The week's flooding in the

um and farmland, underming the vast system of mer dikes.

and coast. Water pouring in from nighbouring countries is meatening to erode the des in central Netherlands

ads of thousands of people sieopardy. "A dike is like a child's and-castle on a beach. It is most likely to be undermined by water from below." said la Roeloff in Nijmergen. "The danger of a collapse

Britain said a squadron of in army helicopters in east

Minister Lamberto Dini easiwon a parliamentary vote of confidence Wednesday that gave his new "govern-ment of experts" full powers to proceed with a limited programme of reforms, offi-વર્ચ tesults showed. Mr. Dini who obtained the

and the federalist Northern league, won the vote in the Senate (upper house) by 191 o 17 with two abstentions.
Only 210 of the 325 senaions took part in the ballot after the centre-right Freedom Alliance coalition of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned on

stained in a confidence vote which Mr. Dini won in the

Dublin prem

London newspaper report Wednesday that they were

The report caused shock

could damage "the entiur process towards peace an

trying to agree for severi months as the next step (

míc s due t and a highe Arab The econo ters N three labour tween the b mies levels .excess

ABU

states

laboui The gures 1993, Arab I for Ec velopr tion o portin:

ANK COUNT from a **nwot** with a agains: nvade pipelin spite k regula oans t and b₁

and do to buil the of debt o Reuter The 5170.8willian. end 5 Zira. i vould :ilom: ermin ind th She iefit fr pensati by Kuy _'nited Arab I

war, a :ated repens Bo deavou own n ver.

Pei

Mu HAN WAN

phone-in for readers to express their views. Only Princess Diana's hairdresser Sam McKnight knows for sure why she decided to try the new look but some British tabloids were speculating that she could be changing her short, softlypermed hairstyle for a sexier image in preparation for a permanent move to the Un-

Mail.

ited States. Even as Princess Diana presented an award to Elizabeth Tilberis, editor of Harper's Bazaar magazine, at the fashion dinner a member

"move to New York." wife of Prince Charles has made four visits to the United States within a year but Buckingham Palace dismissed rumours that she was

bulimia

healthier physique. as the guest of publishing tycoon Randolph Hearsi and suffering from AIDS at a

Harlem hospital. On Monday she leaves for a four-day visit to Japan. where she plans to tour a children's hospital and old people home. Aides were still unsure whether she would be allowed to meet victims of

Britain's Princess of Wales carries an award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America to present to Elizabeth Tilberis, the editor-of-chief of Harper's Bazaar, at the award ceremony in New York (AFP photo)

of the audience shouted The 33-year-old estranged

planning to make it her second home. Princess Diana's navy designer dress also revealed a fuller figure, dispelling recent reports that the estranged wife of the heir-to-the-throne had been battling against a bout of the slimming disorder last month's earthquake.

One newspaper described her as "broad-shouldered and full-armed" and looking positively beefy, proof that her frequent visits to a Lon-

During her New York visit, his wife Veronica, Princess Diana also visited children

don gym have paid off with a

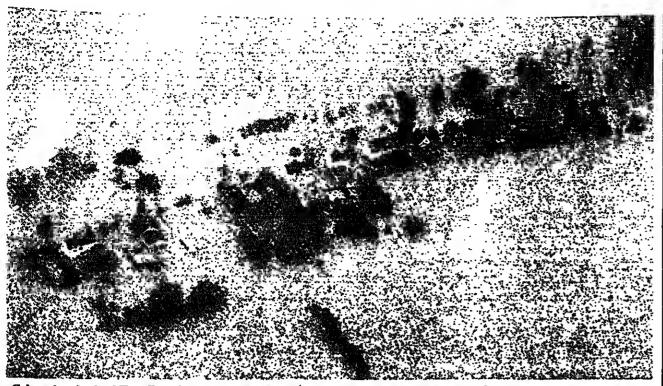
The first witness scheduled to be brought to the stand Wednesday was Ron Shipp, a former policeman who became a spousal abuse expert and counselled both Simpson and his then-wife after the

proceedings, defence attorney Carl Douglas complained that the prosecution might try to get Mr. Shipp to talk about a conversation he had with Simpson the day after the Mr. Douglas said the two

In the book, Raging Heart, by author Sheila Weller, a man fitting Mr. Shipp's description but called only "Leo" said Simpson told him: "They (police) asked me to take a lie detector test. I don't want to take it...

victim are covering up their own involvement in the The defence filed a motion to suppress much of Mr. Shipp's testimony. Argu-

Mr. Simpson, who took his



Cologne's suburb of Kasselberg is reduced to an island on the River Rhine which can only be reached by boat as the

heavy floods continue to keep the water-levels high in northern Germany (AFP photo)

AMSTERDAM (R) — Battered by Western Europe's relief if aothorities request

"floods of the century" the Netherlands faced fresh peril Wednesday as ancient dikes threatened to give way and swamp the vulnerable, lowlying oation. There was no respite for

the Dutch as vast floods that eoguifed much of Europe for the past week eased in France, Belgium and Ger-Thousands more people

were told to flee their homes in -the Netherlands' biggest ever peacetime evacuation. The week's flooding in the sooth and east of the country has already made 250,000 people bomeless.

Eorope's bloated rivers again churned water through town and farmland, undermining the vast system of

More than two thirds of Dutch people live below sea level, behind their ancient network of dikes along rivers and coast.

Water pouriog in from neighhouring econtries is threatening to erode the dikes in central Netherlands from beneath, placing hundreds of thousands of people

in jeopardy.
"A dike is like a child's sand-castle on a beach. It is most likely to be undermined. by water from below," said Jan Roeloff in Nijmergen. "The danger of a collapse rises the longer the water pressure is maintained."

England had been placed on six-hour standby ready to fly to Holland to assist in flood

Rainstorms combined with melting snow caosed the worst floods this century in Europe over the past week, but a pause allowed water levels to drop in France, Ger-

many and Belgium.
Just east of the world's iggest port at Rotterdam, up to 10,000 people were told to leave their homes in East Gorinebem and Boven-Hardinxveld, Wednesday morning.

The two towns lie close to the River Waal in the ceotral Netherlands. Further east on the same river, a dike protecting the village of Ochten some 20 kilometres from Niimegan was starting to crumhle, prompting officials to order an immediate evacuation, Reuter correspondent Lucas Van Grinsven reported from the scene.

Officials said the whole polder (land releaimed from the sea), home to some 40,000 people, could he flooded soon.

Water levels on the swollen rivers that criss-cross the central regions, appeared to be peaking, but experts said a build up of pressure continued to threaten dike de-

Dutch Transport Minister Annemarie Jouritsma said German huilding was partly responsible for making the Knine Kiver overno six army helicopters in east for the second time in 13

Floods bring new threat to Dutch, battering dikes

"Part of the problem is that the flow of the Rhine has been changed through huilding work." she told German

In western and northeastem France, floodwaters were slowly giving up ground and first surveys put the cost of flood damage at up to three billioo francs (\$570 million).

In France's Brittany region, water levels were gradually easing off especially in the worst-hit lie-Et-Vilaine Department and officials said rivers should return to normal levels by Sunday if the waters continued to recede atthe same pace.

The Meuse River, which flooded the indsutrial town of Charleville-Mexieres and forced the evacuation of 3,000 people, started to pull back after the rain stopped early Tuesday.

Bot io affected areas across France, some 250,000 people were still without electricity because of the floods. Sixteen people have been killed in France by the floods, rain and winds in recent days.

Several roads were reopened in Belgium, where the floods have claimed six lives over the past week, but weather forecasters warned against too much optimism.

"In most areas the waters are going down, but we still have to be very careful. The crisis is not over yet," a spokesman for the Interior More rain is predicted over

Ministry's Weather Crisis

fund for under-the-table pay-

Milan's chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli denied Tuesday that Mr. Ber-

losconi, who resigned as prime minsister last Decem-

ber, had been officially told

he was under investigation.

But the newspapers said the "clean hands" office had

taken first step of registering

Mr. Berlusconi's name oo a

list of people they may for-

mally investigate for alleged false accounting.
The reports, which appeared

io all leading dailies,

said Mr. Berlusconi's youn-

the next few days, hut meteorologists said it would not be so devastating.

In Cologne, one of the worst affected areas, the Rhine was ebbing by the hour after crestiog at three times its normal depth Monday. but a catastrophe alarm in the town of Kleve near the Dutch border was still in force hecause the danger of a dike the Netherlands breaking.
The German cabinet meet-

ing Wednesday proposed to earmark 30 million marks (\$20 million) to subsidise low-interest loans for flood repairs.

Families in oorthern Eng-land were forced from their homes hy record floods, which also created problems for thousands of motorists.

The European Commission agreed Wednesday to increase its immediate aid to victims of floods ravaging Western Europe to 1.5 million ECUs (\$1.8 million). Commission spokesman

Nikolaus Van Der Pas said the aid, an increase of 1.2 million ECUs (\$1.45 million) on aid already pledged, had been agreed at a morning meeting and would he directed towards the Red

He told reporters the commission had also agreed to set up a working group to study how to deal with such cross border problems as flooding.

Commissioners were also looking at ways to help the situation in such sectors as agriculture, he said.

ger hrotber and husiness associate Paolo and Saivatore Sciascia, and executive at Berlusconi's Fininvest holding company, were also on

All three men are already under investigation for suspected corruption over payments totalling 330 million lire (\$205,000) which magistrates allege three Finiovest companies used to hribe Finance Police in return for favoorable tax audits.

Mr. Berlusconi, who was advised of that investigation last November, has denied any knowledge of the payments at the time they were

He said after he was ques tioned last month that magistrates did not have any evideoce to implicate him

Ecuador, Peru disagree over truce in border war

QUITO (Agencies) — Ecuador and Peru were at odds Wednesday over the timing of a ceasefire in their five-day-old border war, despite appeals from international mediators for a quick settlement of the conflict.

There were no reports of fighting Tuesday along the Cehapa River, in a disputed 78-kilometre stretch of remote jungle area that has been the scene of frequent border clashes for more than three decades.

Ecuadorean President Sixto Duran Ballen told a press conference late Tuesday that be was willing to negotiate 'after a ceasefire," Peru wanted to wait for the outcome of internationally mediated peace talks which began earlier in the day in Rio De Janeiro.

In Lima, Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg said Peru had not agreed to a ceasefire announced in Quito but held ont hope that the negotiations in Rio could lead to a suspension of military operations."

In Rio De Janeiro, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States — guarantors of a 1942 Rio treaty delineating the border between the two countries - urged both countries to work out a ceasefire and announce it jointly in

the coming hours.
Mr. Duran Ballen threatened to recall his deputy foreign minister, Marcelo Fernandez de Cordoba, from the Rio talks if Peru did not agree to the truce.

"The exact time is not important," the president added, "what does matter is that (the ceasefire) be implemented today. "We cannot talk knowing

that our border posts and nearby localities are coming



day press conference. Ecuadorean President Sixto Duran-Ballen points to a map showing the area where border clashes with Peruvian forces have taken place. President Duran-Bailen said Ecuador, which announced

a milateral ceasefire earlier Tu take part in diplomatic talks in Brazil with the guarantors of the 1942 Rio Protocol unless there is an unconditional ceasefire (AFP photo)

under attack," be said. Mr. Duran Ballen reiterated that his country has the victim of aggression and accused Peru of "occupying territories that beloog to

"We want a just solution that respects Ecuador's tract in the Amazon," he said, adding that the Rio Protocol had "amputated 55 per cent of Eeuador's territory.' Ecuador renounced the protocol io 1960.

The meeting Tuesday at Rio's Itamaraty Palace was the first between the two countries since the border dispute flared up Thursday with claims and counterclaims of border attacks by

Peru and Ecuador. Thus far, Ecuador has reported three deaths and six wounded in the fighting along the disputed border through a region on the Amazonian

side of the Andes which is believed to be rich in oil and gold.

Defence Minister Jose Gallardo Roman said Tuesday that an earlier casualty figure of eight deaths had been revised as some missing soldiers had been accounted for.

Mr. Gallardo also said that two Peruvian helicopters were attacked, one of which was destroyed.

Peru has reported killing 30 Ecuadorean troops, and acknowledged the deaths of six Peruvians. The clashes erupted last

Thursday after a number of border incidents and were the worst fighting between the two Andean nations since a similar outbreak in 1981.

Former U.S. Presideot Jimmy Carter Tuesday stepped into the conflict between Ecnador and Peru by cailing for both a ceasefire and international mediation.

In a joint statement with former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Mr.: Carter expressed concern that South America could revert to its former militarism if hostilities are not resolved soon.

The two men called on the Uoited Natioos and the Organisatioo of American States to support a peace process to be led by Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States.

The negotiating table remains the best place to begin to find a solution that is in everyone's best interests. The use of force will only make solutions more difficult," the statement siad.

We therefore urgently request that both Ecuador and Peru declare a ceasefire and permit ao ioternational mediation that will end the crisis and resolue the problem definitively."

U.N. completes Gorazde evacuation

SARAJEVO (R) - A convoy of U.N. amhulances arrived in Sarajevo Wednesday carrying I16 sick or wounded Bosnian Muslims evacuated from the east Bosnian enclave of Gorazde.

The convoy of 18 Norwe-gian and Canadian U.N. vehicles reached Sarajevo at about midnight after driving for several hours over icy mountain roads from the mountainous Gorazde en-Bosnian Serb forces.

Earlier, U.N. peacekeepers had evacuated 66 Serb patients ont of Gorazde to the nearby Serb town of Kopaci as part of a deal between the comhataots, U.N. spokesman Major Koos

Relatives of the Bosnian Muslim patients waited in the cold for the ambulances to arrive at Sarajevo's maio Kosevo Hospital after an evacuatioo that required laborioos oegotiations beforehand with Serb authorities.

The evacoation deal marked the first time in the war that rival Bosnian government and Serb faction in the Gorazde area had signed

U.N. officials bad described the evacuation as a positive sign of Serb intentions but expressed disappointment that Bosnian Serb negotiators had reneged on earlier promises to reopen roads in Sarajevo to civilian

Talks between the combatants on the release of prisoners of war and information on missing persons also failed

to produce agreement, U.N. spokesman Gary Coward

The setback arose as fighting eased between govern-ment troops and Muslim rebels allied to Serbs in the. northwestern Bosnian enclave of Bihac — the worst clashes since a ceasefire was declared across the former Yugoslavia on Jan. 1.

France and Germany made new appeals for peace, with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe warning that Bosnia could again erupt "in

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, on a brief visit to Sarajevo, urged Serbs to accept a five-nation "contact group" peace plan for Bos-ma. He also criticised Croatia for its decision to end the U.N. Protection Force man-

"(Bosoian Serh leader Radovan) Karadzic is the only one so far who has refused to accept the peace plan and I appeal to him to accept the peace plan," Mr. Kinkel told a news conference after talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Mr. Kinkel said he had

orged Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to reverse his decision to eject U.N. peacekeeping troops from his country after their mandate expires on March 31 or risk a renewed war with the Serbs.
"We believe this was the wrong decisioo for him to

take and the wrong signal for him to send out," be said. In Paris, Mr. Juppe called for an international conference and a summit of the

conflict's main protagonists to save the contact group's peace efforts from deadlock:

"In three months, we risk seeing Bosnia in flames again, and also Serbs and Croats fighting in Krajina. with the threat of the cootagion spreading to the whole of ex-Yugoslavia."

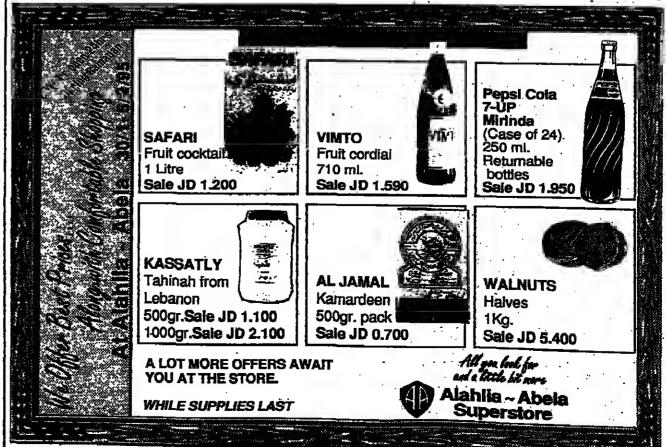
In Geneva, European Union envoy Lord Owen backed the French proposal. He told a news conference that the pose peace on what used to be Yngoslavia unless it was willing to intervene inilitarily

and dictate a final settlement. The Bosnian Serbs have threatened "unpopular measures" against the United Nations if it tries to reopen an airbase it controls at Tuzla.

Alexander Ivanko denounced the warning, saying it was "completely unacceptable that UNPROFOR is threatened by the Bosnian

U.N. authorities have the base to homanitarian flights, as demanded by the Muslim-led government.





Italy's Dini wins Senate confidence vote which could not be con-

ROME (R) — Italy's Prime Minister Lamberto Dini easily won a parliamentary vote of confidence Wedoesday that gave his new "govern-ment of experts" full powers to proceed with a limited programme of reforms, official results showed.

Mr. Dini wbo obtained the support of leftists, ceotrists and the federalist Northern League, won the vote in the Senate (upper house) by 191 to 17 with two abstentions. Only 210 of the 325 sena-

tors took part in the ballot after the centre-right Freedom Alliance coalition of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned on Dec. 22, decided not to vote at all. The coalition formally ab-

stained in a confidence vote which Mr. Dini won in the

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland and Britain strongly denied a

Loodoo newspaper report

Wednesday that they were

drafting a peace plan to bring Ireland and Northern Ireland

closer than at any time since

partition 70 years ago. Irish Prime Minister John

Brutoo and British officials

said the London Times report

could damage 13-month-old

efforts by London and Dub-

lin to settle the Northern

The report caused shock-

In London, Britain's

Northern Ireland Secretary

Sir Patrick Mayhew termed

the report "absolute rubbish"

and a senior government offi-

cial said the account was

"clearly extremely unhelpfui to the peace process."
Mr. Bruton said: "Any

selective leak is inherently

wrong and misleading." He

argued that the Times story

could damage "the entiure process towards peace and

The Times published what

it said was a leak from a

Duhlin source of a so-called

framework document the two

governments have been

trying to agree for several

months as the next step of

reconciliation."

waves in Belfast, London and

Ireland conflict.

Duhlin.

abstection Wednesay would have counted as a 'no' vote under Senate rules. The Freedom Alliance bas

graft magistrates, newspapers reported Wedoesday, as the media mogul's spokesmao said he may have lost the will to lead Italy again. "I'm not sure that if he had

said it will support Mr. Dini's programme, which includes a supplementary hndget for 1995, on a case-by-case basis while supplemental elections.

Meanwhile Ma. Portugation

it," spokesman Jas Gawronski

Chamber of Deputies (lower house) last week hut a similar firmed, said "clean hands" investigators in Milan be-lieved they may have grounds to proceed against the billionaire hosinessman on suspicion of running a slush

Meanwhile Mr. Berlusconi faces a fresh probe by anti-

the chance and the opportunity of going back to the prime minister's office he would co

Unsourced press reports,

Dublin premier slams N. Ireland report as damaging their joint peace effort for the British provioce.

It said the two govern-

ments were poised to agree a deal which would establish eross-border ecocomic bodies between Northern Ireland a and Ireland with radical executive powers, including a right to negotiate with the European Union in Brus-

The prospect spread alarm among Northern Ireland's Protestant Uniooist legislators who fear that Britain and Ireland are pushing Northern Ireland towards reunification by stealth under the guise of

their peace plan. They fear that any Dublin involvement in Northern Ireland's affairs might herald joint sovereignty between Ireland and Britain over the province London partitioned from the rest of the island seven decades ago to Protes-

tant majority. "This is completely unacceptable... If the government endorses this, there is no question of us being able to maintain any sort of reltionship with them - in fact quite the reverse," leading Unionist David Trimble told

BBC Radio. He dismissed any such agreement as totally nn-

acceptable and said Unionists would boycott any all-party talks on the peace process in Northern Ireland if it went through," he said.

> Britain and Ireland say they want to set up crossborder bodies to rationalise trade, investment and other sectors and to hreak down north-south mistrust following ceasefires by the IRA and its Protestant loyalist foes in the past six months.

> But they insist that the basis of their joint peace approach, the Dowolog Street Declaration of December 1993, says that Northern Ireland's status cannot be changed without the consent

of the majority there. British and Irish officials stressed that no executive powers would be invested in any cross-border institution if the people of Northern Ireland did not want it.

"If the people of Northern Ireland don't want to go down that path, they won't.

If they do, they will," the senior British official said. The Times story capped several weeks of purported

leaks of the framework docu-

ment which both Britain and

Ireland acknowledge is tak-

ing a long time to finalise

because of the complexity of

the constitutional issues involved.

The two governments are expected to amend rival constitutional claims to the province in the framework to uderpin efforts to persuade

people to find their own solunon to the conflict.
Meanwhile soldiers Wedoesday hegao de-molishing a British army base in Northern Ireland, the first to go since the start of the Irish Republican Army ceas-

efire five months. An army spokesman in Belfast said it would take several weeks to dismantle the Kilturk Base on the Irish border at Lisburn, County

He said the base originated as a vehicle border check point in the early 1980s and gradually developed into the sophisticated hase it is

"It's now a patrol base

from which movements of

vehicles are monitored across

the border, from which pat-

rais move," said the spokes-After a recent refurbishment of two other bases in the area, he said: "It was decided really that we don't need this particular base at this point in time."

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Protecting children

CHILD ABUSE in Jordan is part of the overall domestic violence phenomenon that is more serious than most people are willing to admit. A few days ago, a young man beat up his two-year old sister to death. The twentyyear old brother told the police that all he did was slap his sister to make her stop crying. He did not intend to kill her, he said. But medical reports will soon determine whether the child died from one slap or from excessive beating. The issne, however, goes beyond determining the amount of violence that led to this tragedy. It brings into focus the habit of using force against children to influence their behaviour. That is an area that itself needs to be urgently addressed along with the sad incident itself.

Many children go on being abused or mistreated without the police or the public ever having the slightest knowledge. What happens in the privacy of many homes would portray a horrific picture of how some children are being treated by their families. Part of the problem lies in the poverty in which so many families find themselves. Inadequate housing and the pressure of life adversely affect the ability of parents to deal humanely with their children. Large families provide also the ideal climate for child abuse since the larger the number of children is the greater is the strain on parents. As long as we have a favourable culture for larger families, hope of providing the children with the necessary degree of love, attention and care To remedy this alarming situation, we

need sbort-term and long-term treatment. The short-term solution necessitates more public awareness of this social ill coupled with a more forceful action by the authorities to protect children from the misguided wrath of their fathers and mothers. This means a stiffer criminal prosecution of all those suspected of abusing their children. The longterm solution would call for deeper education focusing on the shortcomings of big families from an economic, social and mental perspectives. Child abuse should be eliminated. It cannot be justified, nor can the apathy with which society is reacting to it in terms of failing to expose it, taking action against it and treating the problem with the urgency it requires.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i on Wednesday warned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin against suspending the negotiations with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and against further delaying the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements. In his attempt to appease the rightist factions in Israel. Mr. Rabin is going back on pledges to redeploy Israeli forces, arranging for Palestinian elections and releasing 6000 Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails, said Sultan Al Hartab. Stressing that continued occupation remains the cause for resistance activities, writer said Mr. Rabin should not fall victim to illusions that the Palestine National Authority was created to gusrantee Israel's security and peace. Practicing blackmail on the Palestinians would not do any good to Israel and would not terminate the cycle of violence which can only end with laraci's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, continued the writer. Mr. Rabin should realise, stressed the writer, that the Islamists are not the only faction among the Palestinian people who believe in resisting the Israeli occupation and ought to take speedy moves towards ensuring the return of the oppressed people's rights.

THE TRIAL of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman in the United States on charges that he was behind the terrorist bomh attacks in New York is a ploy aimed at serving the Israeli-American alliance, charged Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour Wednesday. The world Zionism is behind the current Western campaign against Islam since Zionism has wide-scale influence on the U.S. media, which are trying to present Islam as the danger creeping on the West, he said. Such cliam and such allegations are designed to serve American-Israeli alliance and corroborate Israel's assumed role as defender of Western interests in the Middle East continued the writer. The writer said that Washington has been following a contradictory policy by maintaining close contacts with the Islamists in Egypt and other parts of the world on the one hand, and sustaining a media campaign against the Islamists in the United States The View from Academia

Writing: learning the art of the trade

ONE SUBJECT in the school syllabus (and to some extent at the university level) which needs to be seriously reconsidered, without much delay, is writing. Throughout the Arab World, writing is a problem to learn and a problem to teach. Our conception, attitude, approach and practice of it must radically change.

Take a random sample, as I have, of paragraphs and essays written by various people in our society, old or young, poblished or unpublished, professional or unprofessional, highly educated or humbly educated (with a few exceptions, it does not make much difference). Select from material written by students at school and university levels (10th grade pupils, freshmen, seniors, graduate students), i.e. "apprentices" still learning the essentials of the trade. Choose also from pieces written by various practitioners: teachers, preachers, researchers, newspaper and magazine columnists, reporters, court clerks, executives, etc. Vary the subject and the genre somewhat: political science. economics, sociology, history, etc.; sermons, epistles, diaries, speeches, personal letters, applications, class assignments, articles, books.

You will be amazed at how poor the quality of the writing is. Over the years, I have been acquianted first-hand with much material written in Arabic by Arabs. as a translator, a teacher of writing and translation, an observer and assistant of some non-native speakers learning Arabic, and a somewhat avid reader of texts of all kinds. The percentage of excellent or readable material is small indeed, not exceeding 15 per cot at most. One of the most vexing difficulties I encounter when translating Arabic material into English or when teaching translation is to figure out what the word, the phrase, the sentence, the paragraph and at times the whole essay actually mean. Words are oot used accurately, phrases are fuzzy, sentences are foggy and pragraphs are loose and nonsensical. First you want to translate Arabic into Arabic, then into English. Ambiguity, of course, can be a virture in certain types of writing (say, literary texts), but not in expository texts. An author of a text ought to know the precise meaning of the vocabulary he/she uses and oot say (for example) Ibtizaz (blackmail) to mean "abuse" or "paranoia" to mean "defusion of grandeur." Many non-native speakers learning Arabic find Arabic essays difficult to understand in a reading/comprehension course often because much of the argument does not stem out of facts established clearly and coherently but of assumed knowledge and implied meanings.

The writing problems in written Arabic discourse of today are enumerable. There are serious flaws (at times quite unbelievable) in punctuation, in diction, in sentence structure, in coherence, in cohesion, in argumentation, in development, in logic, in sequence, in clarity, in sharpness, in order, in organisation, in sense. Writers ramble on and on and on, bear around the bush, repeat, hint, give half the idea at the beginning, another half in the middle or at the end, either never hitting the nail on the head or hitting it unnecessarily hard. Nearly all the qualities of good writing are missing. In a word, there is no system, there is no discipline, there are no rules. Try to find a topic sentence in most contemporary Arabic texts. It is next to impossible. Try to look for a system of punctuation. No chance.

This writing problem stems most directly from the way writing is taught at our schools. We have what we call "insha". The meaning of the term is quite positive, "compositioo" or "construction." Literally, it means "construction," an apt metaphor and an apt concept. "Yunshi" or "to construct" implies that one is "building" an argument carefully, coherently, step by step, systematically, etc. But this is only an illusion, for "insha" has in fact acquired a very pejorative sense these days; "yunshi" has come to mean "to make up anything" You sit down for half an hour or so and write big words and loog sentences which

students are encouraged (and they end up believing that) to view the writing process as essentially and absolutely spontaneous and free. One sits down and writes impressions and ideas as they come to his/her mind. There is basically no outline, oo draft, no revision, no organisation or reorganisation. Secondly, the models for good writing which our students are expected to emulate are the creative

texts, i.e. he highly poetic, literary and rhetorical texts. Such is an unfortunate misconception, of course, because the rules which govern creative texts are radically different from those which govern expository writing.

Indirectly, and more generally, the writing problem stems, unavoidably, from our everyday life. The Arab of today (this is sad but it is a fact) leads an essentially carefree, aloof, indifferent, disorganised and chaotic life. There is a noticeable lack of discipline and system in the daily lives of most of us. While we do cling strongly to many habits and customs, our practices are not marked by meticulous observation of regulations, rules and lawa Regulations, rules and laws and easily violated or broken. Nothing prevents us from using telephones at official establishments and institutions to chat with friends for hours about silly matters. We do not obey traffic rules; we go on picnics and litter the place. When we write therefore, we just write.

The solution is to alter the way we conceive of, approach and teach writing at hour schools. The insha' lesson should have a textbook first, one which spells out very clearly the rules of punctuation, organisation, argumentation, de-velopment and other mechanics and philosophy of writing Secondly, our students ought to be given the chance in write, in the insha' lesson and in all the other lessons, and ought to be evaluated on the basis of the rules and the guidelines. Thirdly, the writing courses at the university level (which in my opinion are oot generally successful) ought to be more like workshops and seminars than formal lectures. The students need to write as much as they can, and they need to get in the habit of writing according to and in light of certain stricts guidelines and rules.

Writing (especially in today's world) is extremely important. It is an expression of self, for us as individuals and as a passion. It is also a reflection of self, for us as individuals and as a

oation. It is also a reflection of self, for us as individuals and as a nation. We need to master the art of the trade if we care to present and assert ourselves more effectively. People are generally judged on the basis of what they produce, and what we produce these days is of a very poor

Israel's interrogators remove their gloves

By Nigel Parry

ON NOV. 14 1994, in the wake of the kidnapping of Nachshon Waxman and the bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv, the front page of the Jeru-salem Post carried an article on torture headed "Restrictions on GSS use of force eased for 3 months." The article referred to a decision made by the ministerial committee that oversees the General Security Service (GSS), the Shin Bet, the arm of the Israeli military authorities responsible for the interrogation of Palestinian detainees. Citing nario, where interrogators believe that a detainee has information about "an imminent act of terrorism," the committee voted to relax existing "restrictions" on the use of physical force in such cases.

This news came as a surprise to many human rights organisation monitoring Israel's use of torture, where the consensus seems to be that existing restrictions are negligible. Additionally, many feel the "ticking bomb" scenario is open to misuse and scant regard is currently paid to either Israeli or international law.

Chilling list of tortures In 1987, a state com-

mission of enquiry beaded by Moshe Landau laid down guidelines to be followed during the interrogation of "security" detainees. These were detailed only in a secret annex to the report, and permitted the use of "psychological pressure" and "a moderate measure of physical pressure." Amnesty Internation-

al (AI) has stated for a number of years that "Palestinians under interrogation are systematically tortured or illtreated." It and other human rights organisations have compiled a chilling list of the methods employed by Israel, including: Verbal abuse and threats; deprivation of food; covering the head for hours, even days, on end; prolonged sleep deprivation; prolonged shackling in contorted positions; confinement in coffin-sized cells called "closest;" confinement in conditions of extreme heat, cold or filth; forced physical exercise; beatings on all parts of the

Palestinians under interrogation are systematically tortured or ill-treated in spite of Israel's ratification of the Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

body, with fists, wooden sticks and rifle butts, often concentrated on sensitive areas such as the genitals; banging heads against walls and tables; burning with cigarettes; electric shocks; squeezing of the testicles; denial of medical attention.

All this is in spite of Israel's ratification in 1991 of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Article 2 of this document states:

No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or the threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture. The Jerusalem Post

article revealed that the decision to "ease restrictions" had been brought before the Shin Bet committee at the request of Israel's prime minister and defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin. After the Tel Aviv bus bombing on Oct. 19, Mr. Rabin reportedly said: "If the security services had acted according to the guidelines of the Landua Report in interrogating Hamas people. they would not have found out the location of Waxman's kidnappers.' For Mr. Rahin, the end clearly justified the means, despite the fact that this was an admission that existing restrictions had been disre-

garded. At the time of the announcement, a student at Bir Zeit University, Ahmad Ibrahim Sa'id, reported to the university's Human Rights Action Project (HRAP) that his interrogators had told him they had "removed their gloves" after receiving clear orders from Mr. Rabin to "interrogate him without limits." According to HRAP, Ahmad Sa'id had been hooded and forced to stand for up to 20 hours a day and bad been deprived of sleep for a week prior to a meeting with

In April 1993, after the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel filed a pention at the High Court of Justice. the head of the Shin Bet submitted an affidavit describing changes which had been introduced in the interrogation procedures since the Landua commission's report. The actual detail of interrogation procedures appeared in a second, privileged affidavit. In the open part of his affi-davit the head of the Shin Bet admitted that, although there was a

step-by-step process of applying various methods of torture to allow detainees the opportunity to avoid "exceptional means." the option to proceed to levels of more severe torture remained available to his interrogators. "An interrogators

must first try, as far as possible, to use psychological pressure to achieve the goal. Only if this fails may the interrogator resort to the additional means of pressure which the procedure permits. He did, however,

point out that there were various procedures which were not permitted, such as "starving a detainee, depriving him of drink, preventing him from going to the lava-tory, and abandoning him to heat or cold." First-hand accounts of

torture

This was news indeed to Bir Zeit student Abd Al Nasir Al Qaysi, imprisoned in Rammallah on August 10, 1994 for 51 days before being released without charge. "I began to urinate uncontrollably" during the interrogation, he reported, "but they would not let me take a shower or change my pants." Only after 15 days of detention was he permitted to bathe. During his introgation he was regularly refused access to the toilet, and was often given only five minutes both to eat and use the toilet in a small cell with an open hole in the

Another Bir Zeit student, "Salman," who was interrorgated for 43 days in Farah detention centre after being arrested on May 29, 1994, reported that: "On May 31 they took me out of solitary confirment of solitary confinment and tied me up in the yard. When I asked for a drink, a solider brought a flagon and poured water over my head but didn't give me anything to drink.

Although it is difficult to assess Israel's adherence to secret procedures, it is clear from detainees' affidavits that the arbitrary use of extreme methods of torture continues, and guidelines which are openly referred to are similarly contravened on a regular basis. At the time of the

Jerusalem Post's worrying announcement. Betselem were in the process of producing a report entitled Torture During Interrogations: Testimony of Palestinian detainees, testimony of the interrogators, their fifth publication on the issue since 1991. The report detailed continued ose of forbidden methodsof torture, as well as statements from Shin Bet interrogators. The sections dealing with interrogators revealed that the documentation of interrogations was both misleading and inadequate, significant in that accountability to both Israeli guidelines and international law was thereby

rendered difficult. For example, in the time between interrogations, when detainees are held in what the Shin Bet calls "waiting," the conditions often preclude sleep. One interrogator, known as "Nadiv," explained the terminology to Judge Lt. Col. Shlomoh Isaacson in a case at Ramallah

Military Court. "Rest means that the accused is in a place where the conditions allow sleep. Being "in waiting" is where the accused is in a situation where he cannot sleep. He might have his hands cuffed behind his back, or his head might be covered.

arose in its official response to the Betselem report. It claimed on Nov. 16 that "four years ago, the IDF on its own initiative, appointed Maj. Gen. (res.) Rafael Vardi to provide an independent and external review of the propriety of investigations conducted in the army's facilities. His conclusions and recommendations have been adopted almost in their entirety by the senior command and have been implemented by the army." Yet the most crucial International notes in its 1992 annual report:

Vardi recommended that responsibility for interrogating residents of the Occupied Territories be transferred to nonmilitary authorities and that orders prohibiting soldiers from using violence and threats against detainees be streng-thened. However, appareotly hecause of the opposition of other agencies, it was later announced that the armed forces would maintain responsibility for interrogating suspects through the Military Police.

Passing the buck

Betselem's report also uncovered a refusal by both the Prisons Service and the Shin Bet to accept responsibility for providing detainees with access to food, the time to eat it, and toilet facilities. Although the report included several examples of cases where detainees had been denied access to these, the Prisons Service, officially responsible for them, chose to avoid the issue and shift the responsibility to the Shin Bet. "The Prisons Service is not involved in interrogations, and investigations facilities are not within its responsibility or control. Any contentions in this regard should be

directed to the groups dealing with interroga-tions." The Shin Bet, responsible for handing prisoners over to the care of the Prisons Service, responded in kind. The army is responsible only for investigations taking place in army facilities," offered its spokesman helpfully.

Victories against such a flawed and brutal system are rare and often possess a grotesque quality that leaves little An interesting exam- a quality that leaves little ple of the Israeli army's room for celebration. capacity for clouding the "Elia Theodory, a lawyer issue of accountability attached to HRAP who represents students in the military courts, tries to analyse the system and look for procedural ways to make the different divisions involved in cases accountable to each other. In the military court

system, the Shin Bet is required to report on interrogations to the judge in order that he can assess whether further periods of detention requested are likely to produce new evidence. When Naser Al Qaysi was taken for his second remand hearing on Sept. 21, 1994, three or four secret documents relating to his interrogation were submitted by the Shin Bet to judge Yossi Shapiro. Denied access to them. Theodory quietly asked the judge to sign and date the documents.

Eight days later, at the

next remand hearing, the Shin Bet again submitted secret material to the same judge, and again requested an ex-tension of Mr. Qaysi's detention for further interrogation. The dated and signed documents revealed that no new information had been discovered since the last hearing. Judge Shapiro lambasted the Shin Bet: "I will not accept this. Are you making fun of the court?" The Shin Bet claimed to have f additional material and were given leave to go and fetch it during a court recess. They took Mr. Qaysi to an interrogation room and spent the next 90 minutes trying to violently extract a confession from him. Failing to get anywhere, they released tract a confession from him without charge when he came back in front of the judge.

Nigel Parry is press and public relations officer at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

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By Mohamma

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By Greg
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Published Every Thursday

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Jordanian Theatre Festival is here to stay

By Mohammad Mashariga

"Regardless of the obstacles and the problems that cropped up during the third Jordanian Theatre Festival, one can safely say that the festival has now been established as a tradition and that all involved parties have become keen on its perpetuation," according to Iraqi artist Aziz Hannoun.

With this phrase Hannoun summed up the situation, replying to all attempts by pessimists who had seen only the dark side of this artistic festival and who feared organisaconal problems.

Most of the 70 artists, actors and actresses who participated in past week's festival have expressed joy over its success and determination to see it develop and progress indefinitely.

The different plays presented in the festival had a common denominator — "human freedom."

An instance of this fact was displayed in the play You Who Are Hearing The Voice which was directed by Khaled Tarifi. The artist set the scene during the Ottoman rule of Arab countries when the sultan exercised absolute power and despotism against the residents of a village called Tel Al Hilali. The sultan confiscated the lands, imposed heavy taxes on the population and used women for his pleasure. The sultan was confronted by a courageous young man who decided to revolt against injustice. At the eod the young man gets arrested and impailed.

The young man's wife, Thurayya, was subsequently

subjected to a "cosmetic" and "make up" process aimed at changing her features so that she would look more presentable in the modern age during which no rebellion is permitted. But despite the sultan's attempts, Thurayya remained adamant, rejecting all

Tarifi succeeded in drawing the audience's ap-

plause because he presented a performance close to real life. He also presented a play that highlights heroism and extols bravery. With this play Tarifi succeeded in moving to new boundaries of creativity

and in attaining distinguished levels of artistic work.

In the view of Sami Abdul Hamid, president of the Arab Artists Federation, Tarifi has succeeded in avoiding ornamental and flowery performances and opted for responding to the audience's tastes and

The play Coloured Rain which was produced and directed by Vesna Mashariqa, has drawn conflicting views. Egyptian critic Najib Nijem objected to the use of colours in reflecting psychological conditions of characters claiming that this technique is imported from the West and does not emanate from Arab

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Jordanian critic Jamal Ayyad considered the same play as presenoing a new form of art in Jordanian theatres. The play tackles the life of a young Jordanian woman who was forced to marry her cousin at an early age. The husband, who had just returned from abroad, prevents the woman from pursuing her education, keeping her imprisoned in his home. Soon the young woman falls victim to psychological complications and is subsequently tre-ated for mental illness. A local sheikh is called to exorcise the evil spirit from her body but to no avail. The husband divorces the woman and deprives her of her children causing her to commit suicide.

Vesna has chosen two levels for the stage, the first embodying the real and the second the subconscious. The expressions and the acring on the stage take the

audience back to early childhood memories in an attempt to enable them to delve deep into the very essence of the characters on the stage.

In the play Kardabik's Option, stage director Fathi Abdul Rahman tackles a historic subject dating back to the Mameluke era at the time when Turks occupied Egypt.

In the play all Mameluke princes collaborate with the invaders and help the Sultan Saleem to enter Cairo, with the exception of one prince who rejects occupation and resorts to resistance. In the end, he is defeated and turns himself in, admitting the failure of the rebellion.

In the play the audience watches religious leaders in Egypt calling on the Egyptian people to surrender and to recognise the Muslim caliphate of the sultan in Istanbul. A dialogue ensues between the Istanbulappointed ruler of Egypt and Kardabik who is a lone rebel against the Ottomans.

The ruler, addressing Kardabik, says: "You consider me as a traitor but I consider myself as one who well appreciates the crucial circumstances and tries to cope with the changes. But you are a lunatic and a dreamer. You will be put to death if you fail to apologise.

Kardabik replies that he opts for death rather than live a humiliating life. "I would rather serve as a good example for the coming generation, rather than give in," he adds.

Fathi Abdul Rahman's play is a classic in terms of its production, direction, decor, and costumes, and is considered a new experiment in the local theatre

But some people criticised the play's prolonged dialogue and the great deal of elaborate decor.

The festival witnessed two young experiments depicting two important world renouned plays: The

Goat Island which was adapted by Jamil Awad and directed by Zivad Jalal, and The Plague which was directed by Hussein Naffee'. In the view of director Sami Abdul Hamid, these two performances represent daring works of art that require great theatre and well-seasoned performers.

For his part, Ziyad Jalal succeeded in depicting the state of isolation, loneliness felt by three women living in an abandoned home. When a man tries to end this state of isolation and brings them into life and freedom again, the women put him to death by drowning him in a water well.

Hussein Naffee', on the other hand, presented to the audience the condition of a man obsessed by constant fear which leads him to commit treason.

The third Jordanian Theatre Festival presented different concepts from different angles depicting injustice, anxiety, frustration and other moods and states of mind. The audience was thrilled by the character of The Prince who betrayed his country more than the character of Kardank and laughed at the character of t the despotic ruler (Khaled Tarifi) more than displaying sadness at the impailing of the patriot who rebelled against the ruler. The same audience applauded the death of (Bassam Abu Avyash) who raped the three women and slept with two widows.

The five plays presented in the festival did not allow the directors to fully grasp and evaluate their artistic work largely due to the confusion and chaos which prevailed in the theatre.

The questions to be asked at the end are: What is the future of theatre work and why can't plays be performed in the rural regions and other governorates? Why can't we have more than two performances during the festival? Theatre work ought 10 be promoted by all means and plays should be increased at all costs to corroborate artistic work in Jordan.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Would you care for a calmative?

Could it be that last year's tensions were not released and that lawmakers coming back from the New Year holidays are venting frustrations on each other with extra added verbosity? Or are these gales and omen of how legislative matters will be dealt with in 1995? In Taiwan high civility turned into a swatting match on the floor of the republic's national assembly. Last week a U.S. congressman's "slanderous" comments were stricken from the record when he attacked President Bill Clinton's patriotism. And, not to be outdone, here, we not only had some of Deputy Toujan Faisal's personal diatribe against Prime Minister Sharif Zeid scratched from the Parliament record during a debate of the government's policy statement, but, earlier during the week, segments of a name-calling match between Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant, a sheikh, and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi were found to be inappropriate inclusions in an official record of history. High-powered business meetings now often include bowls of sucking candy on the meeting tables. Behavioural experts claim sucking on the hard candy eases stress in such tense settings. At the very least it would allow time for people to think before they speak since it would be highly impolite to speak with a sourball in one's mouth.

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SPECULATING ON LEAKS OR GAM-BLES: Not so much name-callings as "chaos" was stirred up at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week, or so we were told, when a report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and another by Reuters, stated that officials at the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL), had announced 1994 pre-tax profits of JD 3.75 million (nearly three times those of 1993), and that the company was expected to distribute 40 per cent dividends. AFM officials phoned Jordan National Shipping Lines General Manager Yasser Tal soon after the item appeared in the local press demanding to know what was the situation. Tal explains that the company had made no such announcement and furthermore, such releases can only be made after the company's 1994 financial records have been audited and its general assembly has met to decide on dividend disbursements, neither of which had yet occurred. Some interested parties unravel the confusion claiming that someone, eager to profit, slipped the item to Petra via a fascimile machine at the Jordan Inter. Continental Hotel, and the source was never confirmed. Others conteod that the figures were close, if not accurate, and that they were intentionally leaked to the press. On the day the item appeared in the J.T., as carried by Reuters, the

AFM posted a closing price for the company at JD 3.440 per share up from a previous closing of JD 3.300. The next day JNSL shares closed at JD 3.410; and this week shares dropped down to JD 3.280. The Jordan National Shipping Lines is to convene its annual general assembly meeting in April after which speculation over what may have happened could continue, but this time whatever report emerges from that meeting will have the company's seal of approv-

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FACE TO FACE WITH PRIMARY SOURCES: Visiting Amman this past week, Asher Susser, head of the Moshe Dayan Centre and Shiloah Institute at Tel Aviv University, sealed more than a few contacts. For a professor whose focus for more than 25 years has been modern Middle East history, with particular reference to Jordan and the Palestinians, setting foot in the Kingdom for the first time last Wednesday and meeting with Jordanian and Palestinian counterparts in an informal candid setting was, in Susser's words, "an historic day in my life." Susser, who was born in South Africa in 1947 and

immigrated to Israel at the age of 16, completed his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D., all in modern Middle East history at Tel Aviv University. His M.A. thesis (which was the predecessor to his latest book - On Both Banks Of The Jordan: A Political Biography Of Wasfi Tal) was supervised by another Israeli specialist on Jordan, the late Uriel Dann. Susser's doctoral dissertation, entitled, Western Power Rivalry In The Levant And Its Interaction With Local Politics 1941-1946, and completed in 1986, was supervised by Itamar Rabinovich, who became Israel's chief negotiator in the peace talks with Syria. Susser's five-day visit to the Kingdom was "facilitated" by the United States Information Service (USIA) office here in Amman "because of his (Susser's) obvious interest in and to Jordan," according to USIS Director Peter Kovach. Kovach and others who observed the interaction between Susser and the officials, academicians, and journalists during his stay in Amman said Susser was very pleased with and appreciative of the opportunity, and his new and even some former associates here were willing to engage in frank and open discussions. For both sides. the experience was an eye-opener in some ways and a still cautious step towards beginning the requirement of cultural exchange as stipulated in the peace treaty of Oct. 26, 1994.

TAKING HOME THE GOLD: In Madrid. Spain, Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi received, on behalf of the airline, the Fitur International Tourism Festival's Golden Trophy and Certificate of Excellence for

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ecutive Officer Nader Dahabi (right) receives the Tourism Certificate of Excellence for RJ in Madrid

RJ's leading international role in promoting and marketing tourism. Most people view RJ as the Kingdom's national carrier, but at this annual event, which this year drew in 142 participating countries, the "30-something" airline was recognised for its twin role which also includes contributing to the promotion of tourism to the country and the region and fostering cross-cultural exchanges. Dahabi who flew to Madrid to participate in the opening ceremonies, inaugurated by Spain's King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, said upon accepting the award: "The horizon of tourism is ever-expanding, and with the new era of peace in our region, our target is to contribute substannally to the needs, comfort and absolute satisfaction of all visitors to our land."

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INSURANCE REQUIRES A 'SURE BET': On the home from RJ's Dahabi started off the New Year with some tidying up of major departments and some reinforcements. One such area is the Insurance Department where Dahabi has recruited a savvy expert to manage the office that handles millions of dollars in insuring, the airline's aircraft, passengers. equipment and avionics. Najeh Qaddourah, previously an insurance advisor with Kuwait Airways, has come from London to join the RJ family as assistant vice-president for insurance. Qaddourah received initial training and held several managerial positions with particular involvement in aviation insurance underwriong and claims with Kuwait Insurance Company. In 1972 he joined Kuwait Airways, assuming full responsibility for the airline's major insurance projects and attended many insurance courses including ones at Lloyds Training



Najeh Qaddourah takes over RJ's Insurance Department

Centre and the CII Insurance College in Surrey, U.K. During 1977/78, he spent 15 months with major reinsurance brokers and Lloyds agencies in London to gain insight on reinsurance techniques. Appointed insurance director of Kuwait Airways in 1980, Qaddourah also was made insurance advisor to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Airlines' Executive Committee and coordinator of the \$9 billion GCC joint insurance project. He was elected VP of the Airline Mutual Insurance Company in 1988, and was posted to the Kuwait Airways London office as insurance advisor until his invitation to join the RJ team at Head Office. Qaddourah, is 49, married and has 3 children. A man who was very likely spotted for his thoroughness, said he would like to assess his return to Jordan after a year.

* * * * *

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS: Just before the world was said to tune in to the Superbowl, Jordanian athletes held their own super match which saw Al Wihdat beat Al Arabi I-0 to take the championship as predicted by none other but our own J.T. Sports Editor Aleen Вапауап. In a token of appreciation for coverage of the event and in celebrating their win Al Whidat sent three trays of kunafeh to the news room of Al Ra'i with the intention that one of the trays be delivered to the J.T. newsroom. Need we say that the third tray never made it over to the J.T. but our sweet-tooth colleagues over at Al Ra'i were kind enough to let us know that they enjoyed every last bite. Thanks from us anyway, Wihdat, and thumbs up.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Fat changes loom for European chocolate

By Greg Frost Reuter

LONDON - Sometime this year the European Union will have to decide at what point chocolate stops being chocolate.

As defined by a 1973 European Commission directive, chocolate can only contain cocoa butter, cocoa solids, sugar and, in the case of milk chocolate,

But Britain, Ireland and Denmark — as well as new EU members Austria, Finland and Swedeo

- are exempted from the directive and allow manufacturers to use cocoabutter equivalents (CBEs) such as palm oil in making chocolate.

Now, as the EU brings its policies into line, it is considering whether to allow up to five per cent CBEs in chocolate manufacturing.

Chocolate producers stand to profit from relaxed standards, especially if the price of cocoa were

to soar. But the ingredients are less likely to be as much a sticking point as the labell-

ing issue. What is to stop the chocolate industry from putting pressure on the EU to allow 10 per cent or even complete substitution of cocoa butter and still call the remaining product chocolate?" said Gerrit Ribbink of the Netherlands Development

Hague.
"It's misleading to the consumer to use other ingredients and still stick to the name chocolate." A British consumer spokesman said Britain, which is keen on keeping its current practice of us-

ing up to five per cent CBEs, would oppose new laws that would change labelling standards. "The U.K. would say the products are still cal-led chocolate," he said.

Organisation (SNV) in the For cocoa-producing countries, the packaging issue is secondary to the fear that an increase in the use of CBEs will lead to a

drop in the demand for cocoa,

In a statement last October, the 13-nation Cocoa Producers' Alliance, which produces more than 90 per cent of the world's cocoa, urged the European Union (EU) not to enact the proposals.

SNV estimated that if the EU allowed CBEs in chocolate, demand for cocoa could drop by anywhere between 100,000 and 200,000 tonnes affecting up to 1 per cent of world cocoa produc-

What scares producers even more is that American chocolate manufacturers could lobby the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to follow the EU's example, and this could cut demand even further.

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But Bruce Stillings, a spokesman for the Chocolate Manufacturers' Association, an organisation which represents 10 chocolate companies in the United States, said the

chocolate industry had no desire to change standards.

"The chocolate industry would like to preserve the integrity of chocolate, so it comes only from cocoa butter," Mr. Stillings said. "Even if the desire to

change the standards did exist, it would probably be two to three years before one would see any change on the part of the FDA."

The British consumer spokesman said relaxing the chocolate standards might actually boost production and raise demand for cocoa because it could lead to a wider variety of products.

Kees Kromhout, of the Dutch Margarine, Oil and Fat Production Board, said a decision would probably not be reached until after France stepped down from the EU presidency in June.

France had close ties with several cocoaproducing countries and might not want to push the issue, he explained.

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Horror (PC) movies

By Jean-Claude Elias

Imagine the following scenario: You just won a JD 10.000 lottery prize and instantly started to dream of owning the perfect, most powerful PC money can buy, the one that is capable of doing everything. Before even obtaining the cash against your winning ticket, images of large, colourful, high resolution screens and lightning fast hard disks begin to invade your mind, preventing you from thinking of any other subject.

The PC you lust after, typically will be a Pentium processor with 32 MB (million bytes — characters) memory, 1 GB (billion bytes) hard disk, a 15" colour screen, a Sound Blaster card with a pair of hi-fi speakers, a fax/modem card and of course a CD-ROM laser disc. This will still leave you with more than enough cash to buy all the software you want, even in original copies: Data bases, word processors, spreadsheets. music software, CD-ROM encyclopaedias and above all games — lots of games.

Now everything is in place on your desk and action time is here. The keyboard is smooth, the mouse

docile and the screen colours magnificent. You start by running Windows and browse through the Grolier Multimedia Encyclopaedia, listening to a recorded speech by J.F. Kennedy. So far so good. You exit from the Windows system and go back to the DOS in order to play one of the sophisticated action games. like "Kombat" for instance. Alas, it refuses to work. Fasten your seat belt; the "PC Horror Show" has just

The most alarming thing about Kombat not working is the message on the monitor: "Not enough memory"! How can that be? You have 32 MB of it. More than enough to run any piece of software in the world. Ten times more than the game itself requires. The answer is called "memory allocation." Because of a limitation in the original DOS design, PCs treat each memory zone differently. Roughly, the first megabyte is considered as the "base memory" and anything beyond one megabyte as "extended mem-

Depending on the software one is using, exploiting the base and extended zones is not always automatic. Some programmes do not "see" the extended memory part unless a certain command is issued, instructing them to do so. Which means that even though you may have physically 32 MB, the system acts as if chip talk



you had only I MB installed. You must instruct it to recognise the other 31 MB. This is normally done by modifying two essential files on the hard disk. "config.sys" and "autoexec.bat" (we'll call them start-up files).

Unfortunately the setting that is necessary for large games is in contradiction with the ideal setting for Windows. You may do the adjustment for "Kombat" but then Windows won't work properly - hence the "horror." Users therefore must keep changing the contents of the above files and reset their machine between games-Windows-games sessions. Not only is the operation unpleasant, it is also risky for the

Moreover, not all games require the same setting. The presence of the CD-ROM, the sound card, and other additional devices that need extra setting in the mentioned files also adds to the complexity of the solution. In short, it is impossible to reach one or even two settings that would make all software run. All the memory or the money in the world won't do. The answer is in being able to adjust and modify the start-up files. Although most teenagers are now perfectly capable of doing the operation it still looks like black magic for most non-professional adults.

MS-DOS version 6.2 has a built-in facility that lets users create programmable start-up files. At poweron, the system will display a menu, prompting the user to choose between the different settings. One can have many of them. But even this requires asound knowledge of MS-DOS, its commands and the way it manages memory. Unless really familiar with these details, do not try it yourself. Ask a specialist to create the ideal "config.sys" and "autoexec.bat" files for you. Make sure to keep a back up of these two critical files. Only then may you turn the horror show into a pleasant cruise.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Put your trust in Him Who is the Mighty, the Merciful.

Tawakal alal-Aziz, al-Rahim. Merciful. - Verily, with trouble will be ease.

Inna ma'al osri yussra. - She lived with him through thick and thin. Aashat ma'ahu fis-sarraa wad-darraa.

Al-baq alaika / innakal mukhti'. - He that "ruld eat the kernel must crack the nut. Mann talabal-ola sahiral-layali. - Every bullet has its billet.

La yuseebokom ella ma katabal-lahn lakom. Your advice brought my brother to himself.

Naseehatoka a'adat akhi ela rushdihi Darkness put him to the wrong box. Adallahu az-zalam anit-tareeq. - Be easy, you find one who boots you.

It'ma'in. wa satajid mann ya'mal ma feehi salihok. You're bound to respect your betters. Anta mulzam be-ann tahtarim ru'asa'ak.

* * * * *

TIME FOR FUN

BOY (very shy): "It's said that kisses are the language of love."

GIRL FRIEND (smiling): "They're right in what

(They stood silent for 5 minutes) I don't know what crevents you from practising such a beautiful innguage."

* * * * *

* THE BRIDE: "What do you use to clean your carpets?

THE MARRIED WOMAN: "In fact, I've used several ways, but at last I found that my busband is the best and the most suitable one to do the job

☆ A doctor was asked: "Why do you always question your patients about their diet when you examine them? Does that help you to diagnose the illness?" "No, it just helps to fix my fee." came the answer.

On the occasion of their wedding anniversary, a reporter asked: "Didn't you think one day of divorce during the

whole years you've passed with each other? "No, never, never," said the wife, "but we sometimes thought of something else — I mean mmm ... murder!"

☆ On receiving the news from his wife that their daughter gave birth to a baby, the late American Senator, Arthur Vandenburgh, commented: "I don't worry being a grandfather. What I am really worried about it to be married to one of the grandmothers."

★ It was reputed that one of the husbands used to talk in his sleep and sometimes screamed a lot. "What are dreams in your point of view, darling?" the wife inquired.

"They're deprivation and suppression," he re-

"Still I don't understand what you exactly mean, dearest," she said.

'You don't, for instance, give me ample opportunity to talk while I am awake, so I am forced to do that in sleep" the husband answered.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

I. Which of the following are edible? - Bamboo shoots, rhubarb leaves, bracken shoots, young nettles, laver, palm hearts, rattlesnake, python. hedgehog, octopus.

2. What are a gasket, a chamfer, a crank, a gantry and a fish-plate?

* * * * *

Who were the Three Musketeers, Soldiers Three. the Four Just Men, the Nine Tailors, and the three men in a tub?

* * * * *

4. What are the different methods of cooking food?

* * * * *

5. Under what circumstances can a golfer handle his ball without incurring a penalty?

* * * * *

COOKING IS FUN LENTIL SOUP (SHURBET ADAS)

cups dried lentils quarts water

medium onions, sliced. teaspoon salt I pound raw spinach. chopped tablespoons lemon juice

PREPARATION Soak, lentils in water to cover in deep kettle overnight.

Add water, onions and salt. Simmer for 2 hours, or until tender. Add spinach.

Cook for 10 minutes longer. Add lemon juice before serving.

PERPLEXITIES "PLUS TWO"

Clues are given in the first list below to six words. To each of these words two letters are to be added, so that when the combined letters are rearranged, new words are formed, to which clues are also supplied. Thus COPY + 2 letters = IRREGULAR would be solved as TRACE + IR = ERRATIC

BROAD SMILE + ? letters = EDGE 2 letters = BOOK OF OPERA GLASS VESSEL 2 letters = TOILET REQUISITE SIMPLETON 2 leners = NO TRUMPS FETTER **BOMBAST** 2 letters = COIN (Colloquial) 2 letters = WILD BIRD STAGE-PLAY

The accuracy of the solution may be tested by rearranging the twelve added letters to form the name (two words) of a contempor-

Learning to keep an open mind

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Historic buildings in cities as apparently diverse as Dublin and New Delhi have been demolished with nothing less than glee over the past 40 years by chauvinist developers and local authorities on the basis that they are foreign structures representing old imperial powers and so deserve to go.

In Ireland, it is claimed that because the country's disappearing Georgian buildings are English or Anglo-Irish, they are somehow more than ripe for demolition. But, they will only be replaced by something which is most certainly no better: Postmodern junk imported half-heartedlyfrom the United States, or cut price, superstore-style trash adapted from half-baked notions of what constitutes a con-

temporary vernacular.
In India, a magnificent early 19th-century office was demolished in Madras and replaced by a banal, Post-modern, office block that would be equally at home in Bangalore or Birmingham. But because it was English or British or whatever, it was pulled

But this argument continues to be used a clever way of getting rid of buildings that occupy valuable sites which might be developed more profitably. And, however reasonably one might put the case against demolition, one can be accused of being a latter-day imperialist.

In Cuba, funds from UNESCO have been used to rebuild significant patches of Havana's beautiful colonial centres which were designed by Spanish architects. The Cuban government could have des. troyed these centres on the grounds that they represented both the physical aspects of colonialism and because they were Spanish in style, not Cuban. But, of course, they are Cuban, just as Victoria Station in Bombay's is Indian. This is because Spanish architects working in Cuba produced a very different breed of architecture in the Carribean than they did in the Berian peninsula. Just the same, the great Indian architecutre of Lutyens and Baker owed, at its most inspired, little to its contemporary British precedent.

What the cities like Havana and Bombay have learnt, unlike Dublin and Madras, is that not only is their historic architecture popular among their own people, because it is beautiful, practical and a part of the collective memory, but it also draws tourists and

valuable foreign revenue.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Feb. 2

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Marilla takes over the raising of two orphan children, Davey and Dora Keith, much to Rachel Lynde's disapproval.

9:15 The Hat Squad

An inmate on death row challenges the Hat Squad to expose a ring of policemen in their department taking murder contracts,

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film - Untamed Love

Starring: Cathy Lee Grosby & John Getz

Based on a true story, Untamed Love tells the story of a school teacher who's in charge of a special education class which is already full of fragile children. When yet another student is added she protests, especially since the new child has a history of violent behaviour.

12:00 Bangkok Hilton

After the death of her mother, Katherine, the daughter of a British general learns that he belongs to a rich, well-known family in London, decides to embark on a long journey in search of her lost father.

Friday, Feb. 3

7:30 Documentary - Ramadan In The World

8:00 African Skies

A casual drive almost turns to tragedy when Raimund is run off the road by a truck loaded with

8:30 Desmond's

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

10:00 News In English 10:20 Flight Into Hell

A long journey of desperation and misery begins when two German pilots land on a deserted coastal area after their plane runs out of fuel.

12:00 Feature Film - Brewster's Millions

Starring: Richard Pryor & John Candy

The film is an entertaining comedy which tells the story of a minor-league baseball player who stands to inherit \$300 million if he can fulfill the provisions of a rather daffy will.

Saturday, Feb. 4

7:30 Documentary - Ramadan In The World

7:45 You Bet Your Life

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:15 Murder She Wrote 10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film - Betsy's Wedding

Starring: Alan Alda & Molly Ringwald

In this warm-hearted and often uproarious comedydrama, a down-on-his-luck dad tries to raise money to give his daughter a big wedding.

12:00 And The Sea Will Tell

Sunday, Feb. 5

7:30 Documentary - Profiles Of The Muslim World

7:50 Charlie Chaplin

8:00 Erebus 'Aftermath'

9:00 Step By Step

9:30 Heartbeat

A local programme presented by Maha Addassi

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film - Night Crossing .

Starring: John Hurt & Jane Alexander This Disney film is about a real-life escape from East

Germany by two families in a gas-filled balloon. 12:00 Till We Meet Again

Monday, Feb. 6

7:30 Documentary - Ramadan In The World

7:45 Documentary — Magazine Zero One

8:45 Documentary — The Miraculous Cosmos Of The

8:00 Street Hawk

Brain 9:10 By Way Of The Stars

10:00 News In English 10:20 Fall From Grace

12:00 Feature Film — Children Of A Lesser God

Starring: William Hurt & Marlee Matlin

Based on the Tony Award-winning play by Mark Medoff, this superb film concerns the love that grows between a teacher for the hearing-impaired and a deaf woman.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

7:30 Documentary — Profiles Of The Muslim World

7:50 Home Improvement

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Romney Penhallow, an old flame of Hetty's, returns to Avonlea and rekindles their long-lost romance.

9:15 Documentary — Space Shnttle Discovery

10:00 News In English 10:20 Wild Palms

12:00 Feature Film - Bird On A Wire

Starring: Mel Gibson & Goldie Hawn

The film tells the story of a hotshot corporate woman lawyer and a mystery man from her past. A promising plot about a wintness relocation programme participant betrayed by FBI agents is eschewed in favour of a madcap chases.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

7:30 Documentary - Ramadan In The World

7:45 Charlie Chaplin

8:30 Law And Order 9:00 The Cinder Path

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River Chaos takes place in Patterson's Ridge townhall as the local people are introduced to their new police

officer, Constable Edward Dengate. 12:00 Feature Film — Coal Miner's Daughter

Starring: Sissy Spacek & Tommy Lee Jones

The film tells the real life story of country singer Loretta Lynn. The title role takes Spacek from Lynn's impoverished childhood through marriage at thirteen up to her mid-thirtees and reign as the "first lady of country music."

By Michael J. Band

HOLLYWOOD. at sur of 1995, is look back on a year of acco plishments, disappoi pusum and a series modest yet gratity gains for women in film industry. In terms of profits. A hwood had the best month period in its

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remarkable thematic

Consider four of year's most success movies: A violent port of gangster life (Pulp bon), the latest anima film from Walt Dis Studios (The Lion Kin a thriller involving a away bus (Speed), ar. genial comedy about dauntiess fellow who o comes his slow-witted 10 become a genuine hero (Forrest Gump) addition, one of the gitically acclaimed was a documentary a

basketball. It was a year when thing was a sure ti Many studios lost me by risking huge amo and, in a couple of ances, more cerebral jects that failed to audiences Moreo several tried-anddirectors and A-list a saw their latest pro sink with barely a ri There were some

come developments past year — surpris some cases, reaffirma Tom Hanks, who an anguished, b Oscar-winning peri

ance last year as an . victim in the movie ladelphia, was quite tent, yet equally gaing, as Forrest C Paul Newman, as re an actor as there Hollywood, turned peaumony measure traval of an aging. small-town resident body's Fool, based recent novel by R

Russo. John Travolta, W came a pop hero late 1970s, helping



By Paul Maj Reuter LONDON _ musicals have co the world from S Tel Aviv thanks composing talent Andrew Lloyd and the business of producer C MacKintosh. Both have multi-millionair

Susan Sarand

discovering a m mula that helpe eclipse the Unit in the art of making. Their music h

down language a and Tokyo. The for British block so big that speci

Hollywood in 1994 — a year of rising expectations for women

By Michael J. Bandler USIA

HOLLYWOOD, at the start of 1995, is looking back on a year of accomplishments, disappointments, and a series of modest yet gratifying gains for women in the film industry.

In terms of profits, Hollywood had the best 12month period in its history. It was also a year of remarkable thematic diversity.

Consider four of the year's most successful movies: A violent portrait of gangster life (Pulp Fiction), the latest animated film from Walt Disney Studios (The Lion King), a thriller involving a runaway bus (Speed), and a genial comedy about a dauntless fellow who overcomes his slow-wittedness to become a genuine U.S. hero (Forrest Gump). In addition, one of the most critically acclaimed films was a documentary about basketball.

It was a year when nothing was a sure thing. Many studios lost money by risking buge amounts on action films, comedies about the misplaced and, in a couple of instances, more cerebral projects that failed to win audiences. Moreover, several tried-and-true one of the very few directors and A-list actors saw their latest projects

There were some welcome developments this (Aeademy Awards past year — surprises in nominations will be some cases, reaffirmations in other.

Tom Hanks, who gave an anguished, brave membered as a "golden Oscar-winning performance last year as an AIDS victim in the movie Philadelphia, was quite different, yet equally gratifying, as Forrest Gump. Paul Newman, as reliable an actor as there is in Hollywood, turned in a recent novel by Richard

the disco craze with Saturday Night Fever, reignited his career in 1994 with a powerful performance as a ganster in Pulp Fiction, written and directed by Quentin Tarantino, a young filmmaker who has become an industry favourite.

The most-aeclaimed most thoughtful, most accessible movie of the year turned out to be the three-and-a-half-hour documentary Hoop Dreams. Its creative team of three filmmakers in their 30s — director Steve James, editor Fred Marx, and cinematographer Peter Gilbert — spent eight years following two young basketball players living in the Chicago inner city, from their early teens through high school and on to college, with some sobering detours along the

way.
Costing a mere \$500,000 (the average studio film costs between \$30 and \$70 million), and released by a small independent studio, Hoop Dreams made points not only about buman determination and will, but also values that often arise in the sports world. It remains to be seen whether this movie will become documentaries to escape its own category and resink with barely a ripple. ceive the Oscar nomination for best film announced in mid-

February). If 1994 will not be reage" of filmmaking, it will be cited as a year in which women - in front of, and. even more so, behind the cameras - had a considerable impact.

Interestingly, as Osear (Academy Awards) fever arises in the first weeks of beautifully measured por- 1990, a monto defore trayal of an aging, raging nominations and two small-town resident in No- months before the actual body's Fool, based on a awards ceremony, one of the oft-stated predictions is that voters will be hard-John Travolta, who be- pressed to find enough came a pop hero in the worthy performances to late 1970s, helping trigger fill the five slots in the

The clearest evidence is on the screen, as shown hy two of 1994's most courageous projects.

In Nell, actress Foster,

Winona Ryder

"Best Actress" category. In fact, a number of women made lasting marks with their work in

Among actresses, Jodie Foster (Nell), Jessica Lange (Blue Sky), Susan Sarandon (The Client, Little Women, Safe Passage), Jennifer Jason Leigh (Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle), and Winona Ryder (Little Women) gave memorable performances. Most likely, three or four of that group - perhaps with a surprise or two — will find

At the same time, lesser known individuals - including actresses Julianne Moore (Vanya On 42nd Street) and Linda Fiorentino (The Last Seduction), and studio executives Amy Pascal and Wendy Finerman — played signi-ficant roles in the indus-

Gradually, the climate is changing for women in Hollywood. The "glass ceiling" — an invisible barrier to advancement may still exist in many quarters, and actresses, particularly those approaching middle age, may be justifiably impatient with the paucity of meaningful work offered them. Yet signs of forward movement are every-

winner of two previous Best Actress" Oscars (The Accused and Silence Of The Lambs), not only gave a luminous performance as a feral young woman living alone in a forest in the southeastern United States, speaking an almost unintelligible language, but also debuted as producer. In that role Foster dealt with casting, budgets, and other executive matters not normally the province of per-

Warmly received by: most critics and growing in popularity with audiences, the film depicts the initial contacts between the protagonist and a physician (Liam Neeson) who seeks her out and, with the assistance of a psychiatrist, measures the wisdom of weaning Nell into ev-

eryday society. A second project, re-leased in the last week of 1994, was the fourth screen version of Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, a glimpse into the lives of four sisters and their mother living in Massachusetts in mid-19thcentury America, with the head of the housebold away at war.

The \$15 million movie. a project largely shaped and realised by a creative team of Hollywood women, including development executive Amy Pascal and producer Denise DiNovi, was as inexpensive as any studio production is these days. Early box-office receipts indicate it will be one of the year's more profitable ventures

Unheralded among more visible holiday fare, Little Women took reviewers and moviegoers somewhat hy surprise with its crisp, credible acting (by Winona Ryder, Clare

Danes. Trini Alvarado, Kirsten Dunst, and Susan Sarandon), superb pacing in the hands of Australian director Gillian Armstrong, and an adaptation deftly fashioned by sereenwriter-producer Robin Swicord to reflect the link between modernday and century-old sensibilities.

Courage, imagination and guts were evident, too, in the roles chosen by a number of other women on the Hollywood scene.

Jessica Lange, who is extremely selective, partly because she is a stickler for quality and partly because — like most of her colleagues — she isn't offered much work, resurfaced in Blue Sky as an army wife approaching middle age who refuses to stand by, passively, as the dreams of her youth are obliterated.

Jennifer Jason Leigh, a young actress who until now has had the misfortune of appearing mostly in forgettable films about the dark underbelly of society, took on the challenge of playing the acerbic, self-destructive Thir-ties writer and social bon Dorothy Parker. Mrs. Parker And The Vicious Circle bones in on the Algonquin Club, the New York City literary salon which, between the two world wars, drew to its tables writers, critics and musicians.

Winona Ryder, youngest of the three, realised her potential mightily in two contrasting films about life on the brink of adulthood. Little Women revealed her as a focused individual, seeking to fulfill ber literary aspirations and take her place in a man's world.

Reality Bites showed her trying to figure out her place in life as a contemporary young adult and member of what is familiarly known as Genera-

There were also some surprises. Two actresses, a veteran and a relative newcomer, seized the momentum in a pair of fast-moving thrillers. Meryl Streep fought off a pair of fleeing bank rob-bers as well as raging rapids in The River Wild, the first action film of her career. And Sandra Bulloek commandeered a runaway bus in Speed, a box-office triumph.

Streep, who shaped her career around a disparate variety of women of different lands, accents and centuries, took the role not only to try something different, but also because she saw a trickle rather than a stream of projects heading her way. (Since then, she has acted with Clint Eastwood in The Bridges Of Madison County, based on a popular recent novel about a middle-aged romance and due for release in mid-

Many actresses confront that reality in different ways. Shirley MacLaine, in ber late 50s. has begun accepting older character parts, such as her winning portrayal of a president's widow in Guarding Tess.

Sally Field, still in her 40s, has taken what is available — meaning that in 1994, she donned a series of costumes and aged about forty years to play Forrest Gump's mother opposite Hanks. Goldie Hawii and Bette Midler, also fortyisti; didn't work at all. And a number of their younger



Jessica Lange

million-dollar-plus colleagues, such as Julia Roberts and Sharon Stone, spent the year on projects few moviegoers

Invariably, new talents emerge. The brightest of these in 1994 were Fiorentino and Moore. Fiorentino, in a series of movies with darker, more violent themes, has emerged as the "moll" of her era, a worthy successor to Ida Lupino and Veroniea Lake of earlier film generations.

Moore, an exquisite

performer who may have her breakout part in 1995 in a romantic comedy, Nine Months (due for summer release), was at the centre of a beautifully realised experiment, a transposition of Chekhov's drama, Uncle Vanya, to the screen as a rehearsal — the actors wore contemporary clothes instead of period costumes — being staged m'a dank, shultered midtown New York City theatre. Entitled Vanya on 42nd Street, it was on many critics' "best"

ten" lists.

The impact of women gradually has moved behind the cameras as well. the continuation of a process begun long before 1994. And as people like Lisa Henson, 34, Stacy Snider, 33 and Pascal, 36, assume their place setting directions and goals for Columbia, Tri-Star and Turner Pictures respectively, they will bring more women into the pro-

One of the most gratifying stories of the year, in fact, involved a production not particularly rec-ognised as an effort guided by women.

Nearly a decade ago Wendy Finerman, then in her mid-20s, a graduate of an Ivy League university and business school, fell in love with a novel by Winston Groom called Forrest

Just on the brink of a career in the movie business, Finerman kept pressing the book on any-it one within earshot. Tenacious and assured, she finally succeeded in bring ing the book to the screen Its domestie gross has sur passed \$300 million.

Thoughts For This Week

The second secon

Charity looks at the need and not at the cause German proverb.

It is impossible to write ancient history because we lack source materials, and impossible to write modern history because we have far too many - Charles Peguy, French poet and writer (1873-1914).

The worst enemy of truth and freedom in our society is the compact majority. Yes, the damned, compact, liberal majority - Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist (1828-1906).

To be proud and inaccessible is to be timid and weak — Jean Baptiste Massillon, French clergyman (1663-1742).

It is not all books that are as dull as their readers -Henry David Thoreau, American anthor (1817-1862).

I have always believed that God never gives a cross to bear larger than we can carry. ... no matter what, God wants us to be happy. He doesn't want us to be sad. Birds sing after a storm. Why shouldn't we?—
Rose Kennedy (1890-).

No written law has ever been more binding than unwritten custom supported by popular opinion — Carrie Chapman Catt, American Feminist (1859-



British musicals conquer the world

By Paul Majendie

Reuter LONDON - British musicals bave conquered the world from Sydney to Tel Aviv thanks to the composing talents of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and the business acumen of producer Cameron MacKintosh.

Both have become multi-millionaires after discovering a magic formula that helped Britain eclipse the United States in the art of musicalmaking.

down language and cultu-. ral barriers in Bratislava and Tokyo. The appetite for British blockbusters is so big that special theatres like to be called the

have been built in Germany and Canada to house them.

A third of Norway's population went to see one MacKintosh hit. Lloyd Webber's Cats has become the world's longest-running musical.

The Lloyd Webber and MacKintosh camps bridle at suggestions that their musicals are cloned and franchised like hamburgers to "taste" the same the world over.

'We are not talking ab-Their music has broken out burgers, we are talking about human beings," says MacKintosh's Executive Producer Nick Allott. "I don't think we would

McDonalds of world don, Germany and Las theatre. It is far too indi-vidualistie," says David Grindrod, production coordinator at Lloyd Webber's really useful

company. He has to think long and hard when reeling off the list of Lloyd Webber hits being staged in case he forgets any. Cats bas now been per-

formed 41,000 times in 21 different countries since it first opened in 1981. Joseph And The Amaz-. ing Technicolour Dream-

coat has made it to Bratislava. "Phantom Of The Opera is going strong in Kansas, Denver and San Francisco. Starlight Express is playing in Lon-

Vegas.
"Sunset Boulevard is playing in London and New York. Productions of that will be going to Frankfurt, Toronto and Sydney," Grindrod said.

He couldn't even hazard a guess at how many people had been to a Lloyd Webber musical: "Millions have seen them all over the world and Cats is now the world's longest-running."

Lloyd Webber has twice won the Queen's Award for Industry and earned a knighthood as a one-man export business. Often the critics are not

kind. When Sunset Boule-

vard opened in New York, they denounced the show as saccbarine, tedious, overpublicised and overproduced.

Howard Kissel of New York's Daily News said: "The music is recitative, repetitive singsong and the musical numbers blo-

But the public ignored the critics and Grindrod puts it down to the universality of the shows: Phantom Of The Opera is the Beauty And The Beast love story. Joseph is a very simple story that bits hearts all over the world."

The Americans once reigned supreme with musicals like Oklahoma Hello Dolly, West Side

Story and My Fair Lady. But no longer. MacKintosh's production of the Vietnam War musical Miss Saigon has now run longer at London's Theatre Royal than My Fair Lady with Rex Harri-

son and Julie Andrews.

Allott is not surprised. "American composers are caught in a time warp. The American dream is still the subject of their musicals. They haven't assimilated the changes in popular music taste." be

MacKintosh struck a vein of gold with Les Miserables and Miss Saigon by the French composers Alain Boublil and Claude-

Michel Schonberg. Without his commercial prowess and packaging, they would never have taken off internationally.

"They have originated here and come out from under the banner of Cameron." Allott said. "We have got 40 diffe-

rent productions playing. Les Miserables has played in Reykjavik. When we did Oslo, 30 per cent of Norway saw it," he said. The lastest MacKintosh

juggernaut is a London revival of Lionel Bart's Oliver which recouped its production costs twice over in advance bookings

before it opened. Are there any frontiers still left to be conquered?

Allott said: "I would love to take on Sout America. It has terrifi potential."

As for Lloyd Webbel he now has his eye on the film world. In one of the most unlikely musica combinations, he ha teemed up with America Jim Steinman, who wrot rock star Meatioaf's best selling Bat Out Of Ha albums.

They are working onnew version of the 198 film Whistle Down Th Wind starring Hayld Mills about three childre who mistake an escap convict for Jesus Chi and barbour him in barn. .



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mixed Jordanian-Palestinian? What does it mean that

Jordanians also see themselves as part of an Arab

Nation, and that the Hashemites first asserted their

leadership in the Arab Revolt? Here Layne is not

questioning the loyalty of Jordanian citizens to their

country. But she is warning of the perils of essential-

ist definitions that categorise people according to

rigidly defined, monolithic and supposedly unchang-

jordanian tribespeople and the King construct the

spaces and boundaries of both their bomes and

homeland offers an alternative to the "highly local-

ised, boundary-oriented, holistic, primordialist im-

ages of cultural form and substance..." which have

characterised so much scholarship of the Arab World

and I argue that this approach in some respects

dialogical approach and postmodernism down to

earth - and quite literally so. Based on observing

phenomena so apparently varied as Jordan's adjust-

ing to disengagement from the West Bank, and how

tribespeople arrange furnishings in their homes, she

describes the Jordanian body politic as "agile...

nimble... flexible... (and) poised to meet any con-ceivable challenge" (p. 28). She herself associates

Jordanians will probably be astonished to hear that

their way of life is postmodern, and the detailed

descriptions of how mattresses are moved around in a

these terms with postmodernism.

In her field research, the author brought the

resembles postmodern cultural forms" (p. 28).

A central thesis of the book is that "the way

ing qualities, assumed to be their essences.

tent are somewhat tedious. At times, one fears Layne Home and Homeland: The Dialogics Of Tribal And National Identities In Jordan By Linda L. Layne

Princeton University Press, 1994, 188 pages, hardback \$29.95

American social anthropologist Linda L. Layne didn't huy the standard perception of bedouin society as stagnant — unswervingly bound to iron-clad customs and antiquated norms. By virtue of her academic orientation and the time she spent living with the Abbadi family in the Jordan Valley, she paints a picture of tribal life as being in constant flux and interaction.

Layne's book, Home And Homeland, poses a series of enigmatic questions, first and foremost: Who is a bedouin? If "true bedouins" are defined as pastoral nomadic tribespeople, then they constitute only about one per cent of the Middle East population. Why then, she queries, has such a disprop-ortional amount of research focused on them rather than villagers or urban dwellers?

There can be many reasons for this imbalance, such as fascination with the exotic, the notion that tribes can be neatly delineated and fit into specified academic categories, or the wish to avoid the pitfalls of broader issues like the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, Layne's reasons for undertaking ber research are more rational and straightforward. She cites the centrality of tribes "in Jordan's national imaginings," as a result of the social composition of the Kingdom at the time of its founding, the composition of the armed forces and the constant use of folkloric aspects of tribal life as national symbols

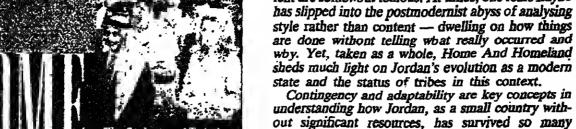
Are "true bedouins" those who live in tents, those who inhabit the desert or only those who herd camels? Is one disqualified by owning a bouse? Layne scorns such simple criteria: "Suffice it to say that the tribes of the Jordan Valley who changed in the last thirty years from being tent-dwelling, transhumant goat and sheep herders to bouse-dwelling agriculturalists evidenced no discomfiture with the changes, in their way of life or confusion about their identity." She notes that those who are considered bedouins, or consider themselves so, do not call themselves bedouins; "they refer to themselves collectively either by their proper name (that of their family, lineage, tribe, or tribal confederation...) or generically as 'Arab," (p. 15)

naving begun as a student of structural Marxism,

Layne later rejected this approach in favour of dialogics which emphasises the element of contingencv. Reality is viewed as constantly being defined and redefined by interactions which mutually condition each other.

While writing Home And Homeland, Layne developed "an approach to collective identity that sees identity as meaning constructed on an ongoing basis through the everyday practices of making a place in the world, that is, adopting a posture in the context of changing circumstances and uncertain contingen-.cies" (p. 29).

The author links her discussion of defining tribal identity to the question of national identity. Who is a "true Jordanian" in a country where a substantial portion of the population is of Palestinian origin or



in Jordan

understanding how Jordan, as a small country without significant resources, has survived so many challenges to become one of the most stable states in the region. Parallel to this, Jordanian tribes have adapted to modernisation without radical ruptures.

The connection between country-wide and local adaptation is clearly illustrated in the socio-economic field, since the book focuses on the Ahbadi tribal federation in the Jordan Valley. The valley was the setting of a major state development project which entailed the introduction of capitalist farming. This brought many aspects of modernity to the Abbadis without disrupting their customs.

Layne's coverage of the debate about tribalism in the 80s is interesting since a similar debate arose around the 1993 parliamentary elections. In the subsequent chapter, she writes fo tribal participation in the March 1984 elections: "Positioning and repositioning of social/political actors in relation to one another illuminates the ways that this social institu-tion, implanted from the West, is being shaped, interpreted, and experienced in terms of indigenous cultural meanings and practices while at the same time providing a vehicle hy which these very meanings and practices are being challenged and changed" (p. 108). Similar thoughts were aired in the Jordanian

BOOK REVIEWS press in 1993, as some columnists debated whether tribal democracy was cohering in the context of Jordan's political liberalisation.

In the 1984 voting, Layne noted several tendencies which became more apparent in 1993 — a new generation beginning to assert itself; failure of tribes to agree on a single candidate; and families not a voting uniformly. She was told repeatedly by Abbadi men and women that wives would not vote as their husbands did. This is an interesting contrast to one result of the 1993 country-wide survey carried out by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. According to this survey, over one-third of women who voted in the 1989 elections did so on the instructions of male relatives. If both are accurate this challenges the widespread assumption that relations between the sexes are most backward among

To be objective, however, one must note that Layne's study does not even mention the possibility of women running for office or other questions routinely debated in Jordan now, at least among urbanites. Her chosen approach leads her to omit many issues which are relevant for assessing the change occurring in tribal communities. Layne argues well for ber case that tribal life is adaptable. But she tells little about the depth of the changes that

are occurring.

Can substantial change be wrought by the "positioning and repositioning of social actors" so aptly described in Home And Homeland? This question can best be answered by Jordanians themselves.

Sally Bland

A resillient tradition

Islam in Central Asia

By Ludmila Polonskaya and Alexei Malashenko Ithaca Press, Reading, England 1994, £35.00

This perceptive and often provocative new book differs radically from the ideological conformist Russian historians of the preglasnost era, and serves as a breath of fresh air. Written by two Russian specialists at the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies, it is a cogent treatment of a fascinating subject, with many fresh insights. It comes well illustrated with 21 evocative black and white photos of famous mosques, monuments and historical buildings in Central Asia.

Islam arrived early with the Arabs in Bukhara and other oasis cities, but if was Sufi sheikhs and dervishes who spread Islam among the Turkicspeaking nomadic tribes in much later centuries, serving as missionaries throughout Turkestan. These different influences account for the varying forms and strengths of Islamic revival going on in the different republics of Central Asia today.

The appeal of rival ideologies of pan-Islamism and pan-Turkism before the Bolshevik revolution is well described. The origins and evolution of the Basmachi (literally "robbers") movement in the Bukhara khanate and across many areas of Central Asia against the Bolsheviks from 1917 on into the mid-1920s is analysed here without the ideological hlinkers of a straitjacket which used to afflict Soviet social scientists. The authors argue that opponents to Communist forces succeeded in gathering grassroot support almost everywhere, backed quite solidly by local religious leaders, who often led what turned into

genuine popular uprisings.

The book explains bow the Communist regime was able to splite the Muslim forces, gathering some enlightened figures to its side and tricking many ulama and other opponents by offering peace terms they never meant to keep. Thus the Russian Bolsheviks based in Tashkent crushed the fragile independence of the first popular Muslim republics of Central Asia. (those of Bukhara and Khiva), rapidly starting an offensive against the traditional Muslim system. In August 1919, the government of Turkestan decreed the abolition of Shari'a courts. "The first measures adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Turkestan Territory were in flagrant contradiction with Bolshevik promises to protect the rights of Muslims," judge the authors. Then, only because of the regimes

weakness, concessions on religion were made which lasted only 10 years more.

Surprisingly, traditional Islamic structures and customs have proved rather resilient in the face of harsh persecution and official campaigns of atheism. Russian educational policies in Central Asia were closely linked to ideology, but they proved remark-ably effective in spreading literarcy, among women as well as men, and modern ideas along with higher education.

The final chapters give an estimate of the progress of Islam in recent decades. The authors remind us that "Islamic renaisance began not only in Central" Asia hut also in large cities of Russia. We have in mind the greater activity of Moscow and Kazan Tatar Muslims, who, using political liberalisation, began to form groups" to study Islamic publications.

It was only from the late 1960s that underground Islam became more active in the Central Asian republics. Ideas of perestroika, glasnost and greater democratisation which spread so fast from 1985 in Russian cities, the Baltic republics and Azerbaijan came as a total surprise in Central Asia. There, in the: late 1980s, remind the authors," very few dared to raise their voices against the local authorities. The Central Asian party bosses were paying lin-service to the new policy, but in actual fact they cursed it.'

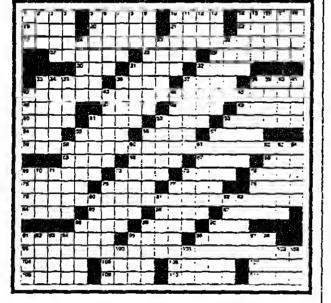
The emergence of Islam as an independent political force is analysed here, along with the contempor-ary appeal of what is often called "Muslim fun-damentalism." A strong case is made for the close linkage of Islam and nationalism in Central Asia, two forces which are held to be mutually supportive of each other.

That Russia, with its military muscle, is the ultimate guarantor of the region's stability - or rather the status quo — seems to be proved by the sequence of events in Tajikistan since April 1992. The civil war there also arguably reveals the weakness of Muslim fundamentalists even in Tajikistan, where the public clearly was much more receptive to its message than in any other republics. Whatever else it is, Tajikistan's civil war is not a simple fight between Islam and communism. It has become obvious, judge the authors," that the fundamentalists' slogans are often adopted by political adventurers, mafia networks and, plainly, bandits" - Middle East International.

Anthony Hyman

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

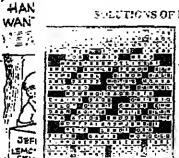
Professional Jargon By Janet R. Bender 4CRC3S



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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE





Last Work's Cryptograms I. Feckless city led plunged recklessly into strange pool full

2. Insurance agent sells medical plan to beat friend that pays off only if hit by a trolley car in Guam.

Old fogy fired his cute measures because she was always rubbing him the wrong way.

Fey frump, without the vaguest idea of what's in vogue, is now trendector for a rumpled funky look.

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ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. All except rhubarb leaves, though bracken sheets are not recommended.

2. A gasket is a piece of tow packed round a joint to make it water right. A chamfer is a flat surface made by cutting away the angle formed where two surfaces join.

A crank is a mechnical device for converting reciprocating motion into circular, or vice versa; the crank-arm projects at right angles to the arm. A gantry is a frame supported at both tools and spanning a distance; it is specially used to support a travelling crane.

A fish-plate is one of a pair of steel plates by which two tails are bolted together.

 The Three Musketeers. Athos, Porthos and Aramis, are. along with D'Artagnan, the heroes of the romance of that name by Dumas.

Mulvaney. Learoyd and Ortheris are the heroes of many Indian stories by Kipling, some of which were collected in the volume Soldiers Three.

The Four Just Men in Edgar Wallace's novel take it upon themselves to deal with criminals unpunished by the law.

The Nine Tailors, or tellers, are the bells that cause a man's death in Dorothy Sayer's novel. The three men in a tub were the hutcher, the baker and the candlestick maker.

Baking, Boiling, Braising, Frying, Grilling Roasting, Sauteing, Steaming, Stewing.
 For identification.

If moved by opponent's ball. If touching an obstruction such as ground under

If within a club's length of opponent's ball through the green.

If so damaged as to be unfit for lay. If in casual water on the green.

If casual water is between ball on green and hole. If within six inches of opponent's ball on green.

PERPLEXITIES

(PLUS TWO) GRIN + AM = MARGIN BOTTLE = LIBRETTO FOOL +AH= LOOFAH CHAIN + CE = CHICANE ·RANT + EN = TANNER DRAMA + LL = MALLARD

The added letters, when rearranged, form MICHAEL ARLEN.

By David Thurber The Associated Press

108E, lapan _ The walls 108th Japan — 1 ne walls came and foot peams came on Isao down on Isao down working as he was working fado dawn at his newer fador f field as he was working the dawn at his news-bane delivery shop. Trap-part delivery shop. Trap-the rubble from the rubble earth-tobe's massive earth-tobe he waited column. kobe's massive earth-make, he waited calmly in make, he waited calmly in winter cold, he says. beause would arrive.

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The Jan. 17 quake, which
The Jan. 18 qu houseds of buildings, has rought out many noble nois among the survivors, sch as patience, persever me and honour. There have been aimos: no reports of serious crime or looking. Prices have re-

mined generally stable de-pite shortages and the de-passion of stores and with remarkably few

gued transportation sys But the quake also serve a kind of psychologic fault line, opening up ne questions and doubts for many Japanese about the symbolic as well as physical servertones of their live omerstones of their live Rather than ordering swift, strong respons Prime Minister Tomiic Murayama waited for the

slow-moing bureaucracy Even the emperor a empress, revered as sybols of the nation, wait 10 days to announce th would visit the quake as leafter it was reported the Britain's Princess Dia night do so.

At the beight of its e poinic power in the lights, Japan felt it had li plearn from the rest of

But already chastened is recent three-year eco

Cairo to hos

(Continued from page December that Egypt

poned Syria's insistence the Golan Heights. Isra drawal so far and dema Syrian commitment to des with the Jewish stat precondition. Mr. Peres blamed Sy

the deadlock. "We made peace three parties. Egypt fitte PLO, then the nians. Who can accuse (blocking) peace?
"We have shown terms that we are re compromise on the per authority and many

things, but what the are asking is totally cedented at negoti They want that we accept their opening negotiations start. It lone." he said. Arafat spokesman Kanafani said the PLO of the problems we're most importantly the the Palestinian terri

A senior PLO summarised the thus: Basically the is intended to help overcome his domes Mr. Rabin's popi

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attempt to take back depot in the south o but neither side s have moved from it The Russian force down artillery an shells, many of the

the area around the toundabout in Gr But two weeks ian forces seized presidential pala seen as the sy Chechen resistar seem as far away are beralisation in the comen The Associated Press

Layne noted several tender of Deams came apparent in 1993

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Mr. Kadoi was among

for office or other possibly waited much longer for responsibly and the lucky ones. Others who for office or other possibly waited much longer for responsibly at least any ones under the wreckage of the relevant for assessing wondering whether they so that tribal life is adapting the depth of the changes in Japan's slow-moving officialdom.

The Jan. 17 quake, which killed more than 5,000 people destroyed tens of the destroyed tens of th

The of social actors to ple and destroyed tens of buildings, has ing of social acrors he he ple and destroyed tens of med Homeland? This quest brought out many noble traits among the survivors, such as patience, perseverance and honour. There have been almost

no reports of serious crime or looting. Prices have remained generally stable despite shortages and the devastation of stores and hanks.

With remarkably few complaints, Kobe's citizens, many still housed in emergency shelters, have stoically begun the long reon religion were made we building process and are hard at work at jobs or in school despite the devastated transportation sys-

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But the quake also served as a kind of psychological fault line, opening up new questions and doubts for many Japanese about the symbolic as well as physical cornerstones of their lives.

Rather than ordering a swift, strong response, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama waited for the slow-moing bareaucracy to take the leil.

Even the emperor and empress, revered as symbols of the oation, waited 10 days to announce they might do so.

At the height of its ecooomie power in the late 1980s, Japan felt it had little to learn from the rest of the

But already chastened by its recent three-year econo-



OUT IN THE COLD: Japanese refugees left homeless by the Jan. 17 earthquake gather at the Ikuto High School gymnasium (AFP photo)

Quake reveals Japan's strengths-and weaknesses

mie slump, the country has had to accept another hlow - the shattering of its faith that its technology could counter centuries of susceptibility to nature's power. Modern, supposedly

earthquake-proof buildings crumbled in the quake along with traditional wooden homes. Throughout Japan, huildings, subways and train lines have been hailt to the same standards, leaving many people worried about their own safety.

would visit the quake area but More shocking were -after it was reported that :... newspaper reports that Britain's Priocess Diana, shoddy construction had been discovered in some damaged highway pillars and in supports for Japan's famed "bullet" train line, loog a symbol of the coun-

Japan discovered during the slump that it still can learn much about husiness and high technology from the rest of the world. It bas realised since the quake that it can also gain from foreign know-how ahout disaster response.

In recent years, Japanese experts were smug following earthquakes in San Francisco and Los Angeles. saying Japan's high engineering standards would stave off similar damage.

But since Kohe's far more widespread destrucdon, television news programme have focused repeatedly on the lessons Japan must learn from California about earthquake prepara-

Mr. Murayama has also conceded that his government was slow in respoodno to the disaster. hlamed lack of an effective crisis-management system.

But critics say the prob-lem pervades Japan's hureaucracy, which in many ways runs the country. The hureaucracy is bardworking and well-intentioned - but also cautious and precedent-bound.

As the recovery efforts beaded into their third week, many of the carly problems of inadequate mobilisation . and information have eased.

But at least two senior relief officials appeared close to emotional breakdowns because of exhaustion. In a country where effort is often more highly regarded than actual achievement, one criticised official lashed out at a reporter and described how long he had been working without sleep.

The humbling has gener-

ated a powerful backlash against the hureaucracy, a highly respected elite comprised of the top graduates

of the nadon's top schools. "Bureaucrats were responsible for the loss of many lives that could have been saved," said Tatou Takahama, a senior fellow at the private Yomiuri Research Institute.

In a commentary in the Yomiuri, Japan's largest newspaper, Mr. Takahama blasted hureaucrats' territorialism and passivity, saying these qualities re-sulted in delays in mobilising aid and in accepting offers of assistance.

Officials confirmed Friday that Japan had turned down extensive offers of help from the United anchoring of an American clined an offer of a golf aircraft carrier in Kobe hay

to house up to 2,000 injured and homeless.

Foreign Ministry spokes-man Kishichirou Amae said the government was soll considering offers from dozens of countries. But he implied that aid was still not entirely welcome. The quake aftermath has

cast a revealing spotlight on Japan's way of dealing with the outside world - an approach marked by discomfort in dealing with foreigners and the desire not to depend on or be ohligated to outsiders. After the quake, officials

initially refused to relax regulacions and allow foreign relief teams to treat victims without Japanese medical licenses, and relented ooly after media re-

Bureauerats even de-

course clubhouse outside Kohe for use as an emergency shelter, saving it would be unfairly luxurious compared to other relief

Although it is legal to do so, central government officials say it would be improper for them to take the lead in rescue efforts and not wait for requests from local governments to come through normal hureaucraoc channels. One result was that it took four hours before Japanese troops ar-

rived at the quake scene. Other officials have said a strong central government response to the quake would have harked hack to the authoritarian days leading up to World War II. Many people compared Kobe's damage to the de-

during the war, the coun-

try's most vulnerable time. Still, for some, the earthquake brought hope for positive change.

Although Japan has little tradition of private aid or volunteer work, more than 7,000 people have registered as volunteers after the quake. Many more are helping out without officially registering.
As Mr. Kadoi, the news-

paper distributor, talked, two roasted sweet potato vendors were offering piping-hot potatoes to the thousand victims at his shelter. Inside, a crew of volunteers was cleaning up and preparing to serve the next meal of donated food.

"It's a wonderful development, to see all those volunteers," said Michiyo Hayama, a housewife. "It's vastadon of Japanese cities a symbol of hope for the

Cairo to host Mideast summit

(Continued from page 1)

December that Egypt supported Syria's insistence on a full Israehi withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel has offered only a partial withdrawal so far and demands a Syrian commitment to full ties with the Jewish state as a precondition. Mr. Peres hlamed Syria for

the deadlock. "We made peace with three parties, Egypt first and the PLO, then the Jordanians. Who can accuse us of

(hlocking) peace? "We have shown in real terms that we are ready to compromise on the peace and authority and many other things, but what the Syrians are asking is totally unprecedented at negotiations. They want that we should accept their opening before negotiations start. It is not

done," he said. Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the PLO hoped the summit "will solve some of the problems we're facing, most importantly the siege on the Palestinian territories."

A senior PLO official summarised the meeting thus: "Basically the meeting is intended to help Rabin overcome his domestic prob-

Mr. Rabin's popularity in the polls has dipped since a spate of suicide bombines by opponents of the self-rule accord with the Palestinians. Israelis say the 1993 agreement has failed to improve their security.

The PLO official said Mr. Arafat expected little more than a promise from Mr. Rahin to ease the sealing of the occupied West Bank and PLO-ruled Gaza imposed after the bomhings.

The closures, which Palestinians view as collective punishment, together with conduced Jewish settlement of Arah land, have turned many Palestinians against the peace deal. The official, quoted by Reuters, said talks with Israel on holding delaved Palestinian elections would resume in Cairo next Tuesday or Wednesday.

The summit was made possible after King Hussein and Mr. Arafat resolved most of their differences, and Israel and Egypt defused tension over nuclear weapons. Cairo was angered by Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation

"I believe this greatly broke up the clouds that had amassed in the relacions between us and Egypt," Mr. Peres said of his meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Peres refused to coo-

firm or deny that be had offered Egyptian experts an unprecedented tour of a nuclear reactor in a hid to cool a war of words over the Jewish

state's nuclear programme. The Israeli daily Haaretz reported Wednesday that: Israel would invite nuclear scientists from Egypt to visit an Israeli nuclear research centre at Nahal Soreq. Haaretz said Nahal Soreq

is subject to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and that Egypoan officials have visited the site as part of an international delegation.

"I don't think we shall discuss publicly such an issue before we reach an agreement hetween us," Mr.

"I am sure we shall find a modality on how to overcome the differences between us." he said, adding. "we have to work for a region free of nuclear weapons."

Mr. Musa said "Egypt confirms that we need a region free of all weapons of mass destruction in particular the nuclear weapons.

"We cannot accept the situation today that there is a nuclear programme unknown," he said.

"We are trying to solve the problem in order to deal with it in a positive and effective way. We shall continue to talk about it," Mr. Musa

Danes take year off, share jobs under new dream scheme

By Lars Foyen Reuter

COPENHAGEN - Fancy taking a year's paid leave from work to study, be with your children or just lie on the conch and read novels? The dream has become

reality in Denmark, appropriately the homeland of fairytale writer Hans Christian

At the end of 1994, almost 80,000 Danes were enjoying a new leave from work programme designed to promote job-sharing and cut unemployment. Prime Minister Poul Nyrup

Rasmussen, a pragmatic Social Democrat who introduced the scheme, often talks of a future society where people can tailor their own lives mixing work, education and parental duties according to personal needs.
The one-year-old program-

me — giving the right to 12 months of educational, parental or sabbatical leave - seems to make sense from an economic, human and political point of view. In theory, each worker taking leave from the program-

me should be replaced by an unemployed person. The state pays the leavetaker between 70 per cent and 100 per cent of the Danish maximum unemployment benefit allowance of about \$350 a week before tax.

The substitute gets real wages and valuable labour market experience.

The swap should not cost the state any money, the leave-takers are happy and unemployment figures fall because those on leave are not considered johless.

Too good to be true? Yes, unfortunately, say critics.
The centre-right opposition and employers say the

programme is already causing bottlenecks in the labour market which create wage pressure and threaten to fuel inflation. It could also end up costing the state money, they "Educational leave is good

because it raises the skills of the workforce which should secure competitiveness and create jobs in the long run, said Klaus Rasmusen, an economist with the Confederatioo of Danish Industries.

"But parental leave and sabbaticals should be scrapped at once because they only reduce the workforce and have negative side effects." he said.

One problem is that many

leave-takers, particularly in the private sector, are not being replaced. Flemming Francsen, a labour market board spokesman, said employers appeared to have replaced little more than half of

the leave-takers. Economists estimate this means extra costs for the state of 21 million crowns (\$3.5 million) for every 1,000

people on leave. The scheme has brought political gains for the government hy cutting the johless total - leave-takers are removed from the unemploy-

ment statistics. The unemployed are eligible to join the educational and parental schemes and it is attractive for them because it

extends the period during which they are eligible for full unemployment benefits. More than 40 per cent of current leave-takers are un-

employed. Economists calculate that almost all of the fall in unemployment to 11.1 per cent in November 1994 from 12.5 per cent in January was due to the leave schemes - a point stressed by the centre-

And critics say the leave programmes are hampering the creation of real private

right opposition.

The problems of the scheme were highlighted by a rush by 4,800 of Denmark's 45,000 nurses to join the parental leave scheme. Hospitals have with

varying success recruited nurses from ahroad to try to make up for the shortage but the nurses' union is now asking for a 15 per cent pay increase.

If the union's claim sncceeds, inflationary pay demands could spread to other sectors, economists say. But the scheme has proved

highly popular among the workforce. The government expected about 20,000 leave-takers in

1994. The labour market board approved 80,798 applications for parental leave, mainly from women in the public sector.

Some 47,000 people opted for education leave and about 13,000 for sahbaticals.

The schemes are expected to be at least as popular in

Imaginadve unions have used the leave programmes to prevent redundancies and increase employment. Bus drivers, office workers, rubbish collectors and others

have introduced rotas under which, for example, 30 workers share 24 jobs. Each worker gets every

fourth week off, with most of the income loss covered by the sabbaocal leave programme, in addition to their five or six weeks of paid boliday a

Faced with the demand for leave-taking and increasingly aware of the economic risks it could carry, Mr. Rasmussen is cutting compensation for parental and sabhatical leave to 70 per cent of the maximum unemployment allowance from 80 per cent.

A further cut to 60 per cent is planned in 1997, although the allowance for educational leave remains 100 per cent.

Social scientists say the programmes, which indirectadmit the dream of full employment will never be realised, could bave a profound effect on the Danish work ethic and mentality.

"The long-term effect is that it promotes the idea that we Danes shall not work always but should be set on being away from the labour market during parts of our life," said senior philosophy lecturer Ole Thyssen.

Russians hunt for Dudayev

(Continued from page 1)

attempt to take back the tram depot in the south of the city, but neither side seemed to have moved from its previous positions.

The Russian forces rained down artillery and mortar shells, many of them striking the area around the Minutka roundabout in Grozny.

But two weeks after Russian forces seized the central presidential palace, Then seeo as the symbol of Chechen resistance, They seem as far away as ever from gaining full control of the city.

"There was no reason to keep the palace. We gave it up - if we had stayed there it would have become a tomh," said Checheo fighter Deinubah Taramov, sheltering not far from Mioutka. "We can last as long as we have bul-

lets, we can last half a year." Chechen commander told Interfax news agency the claims were false.

The protracted struggle seemed set to spoil Yeltsin's 64th hirthday party on

"har's the sound of Yeltsin celebrating his hirthday," said fighter Minkil Erhubov. himself marking his 34th birthday with Tamarov and a dozen other rehels.

Many houses in the area were burning hut some people, many of them elderly and sick, still huddled in dark cellars. Some had been there for two months wirhout gas. light or heading.
"Why didn't Yelisin get us
out?" asked Zinaida

Wednesday. Grishenko, 60, one of 15 mainly elderly women hiding in one cellar.

Israel allows more building

(Continued from page 1) the West Bank settlement of

Muslim charity raided

Troops raided a Muslim charity on the West Bank and seized documents in a campaign against hardliners fighting against the peace process. Palestinian sources said

The soldiers quesconed workers at the offices of the Zakat committee or alms

charity at Ramallah on Tues-

"We are totally legal from every point of view," said the committee's Agel Rahih. The loss of our dossiers will hamper our services during Ramadan."

The army charges that Muslim fundamentalists, particularly the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, collect money to support the armed struggle under the cover of charity, social or

Troops have raided several such institutions on the occupied West Bank since Jan. 22 when suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis near Netanya.

As part of the crackdown more than 100 hardline suspects have been arrested on the West Bank, while in the Gaza Strip the Palestinian Authority has detained about 20 suspects.

Two suicide bombers were sheltered by Palestinians who once collaborated with the Jewish state and now live as outcasts, a senior Gaza offi-

cial said Wednesday. The men obtained Israeli army uniforms from the collaborators who live as outcasts in Debneya, a Gaza Strip village guarded hy Israeli forces, said Tayeh Ahdul Rahim, secretary

Arafat. The assailants, both members of the Islamic Jihad from Gaza, spent the night at Dehneya before crossing into Israel the morning of the attack on Jan. 22, Mr. Ahdul

general in the hureau of Mr.

Rahim said. The homhers disguised themselves to pass unnoticed at a hus stop, frequented hy soldiers near the coastal re-

sort of Netanya.

"This is the missing link," said Mr. Abdul Rahim of the possibility that collaborators helped the activists .

Mr. Abdul Rahim said his information was obtained 'from a variety of sources."

but not Israeli. Mr. Arafat revealed Tuesday that Palesonian security services foiled an attempted suicide hombing by a 15-year-old boy, an Arab-Israeli de-

puty said. Two other anti-Israeli attacks had also heen thwarted in the past few

Jorda League members Home and ort fall in budget deficit

By I U DHABI (AFP) - Economic reform coupled with spending cuts depressed the budget deficit of Arab League's 22 members stood at \$41 billion compared with \$45.9 billion in 1992 and a record \$68.1 billion in 1991, said the annual economic and social report compiled by the Cairo-based Arab League and three key regional orga-

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The high deficit in 1991 was caused by large financial contributions by Saudi Arabia. Kuwait and other Gulf oil producers to a U.S.-led campaign to expel Iraqi invasion forces from knwait in February that year.

nisarions.

A decline in oil prices to \$16.33 from \$18.44 pushed down total Arab revenues to nearly \$122 billion in 1993 from \$129.4 billion in 1992 while expenditure was cut to \$162.9 billion from around \$175.3 billion, according to the report, released Tuesday by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund

(AMF). The decline in the deficit was a result of measures by several Arab countries to rationalise expenditure, increase revenue and upgrade financial performance as part of economic reforms," the 360-page report said.

It said the reforms, carried out by both oil and non-oil members, also covered privatisation, reducing subsidies, developing tax systems, encouraging the private sector and attracting local and foreign investment.

It showed public and private investment in the region increased to nearly \$110 billion in 1993 from around \$108 billion in 1992, most of which were in key oil producers -Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Libya, Iraq, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates

A breakdown showed the biggest deficit cut was in Knwait, which slashed its shortfall to \$5.2 billion in 1993 from \$18.6 billion in

In contrast, Saudi Arabia saw its deficit grow by around 11 per cent to \$12.3 billion from \$11.1 billion because of a decline in oil earnings. which account for the bulk of its income, the report said. Algeria's deficit soared to \$7.2 billion from \$582 million

while a budget surplus in the UAE of \$456 million turned into a deficit of \$1.64 billion. Other oil producers like Oatar and Libya managed to reduce the deficit while

The report gave no figures biggest Arab oil producer but is still suffering from crip-pling United Nations sancoons imposed after its 1990 invasion of neighbouring

Kuwait. Most of the remaining member states, classified by the report as the second group, succeeded in cutting their budget deficits as they pressed ahead with economic reforms, according to the report, also prepared by the AMF, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Knwaiti-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social De-

In Egypt, also locked into reforms under an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, the deficit was cut to \$1.6 billion from \$3.16 billion. In Tunisia, it was down to \$1.28 billion from \$1.33 billion and Sudan to 120 million from \$1.15

Yemen, where revenues have steadily grown due to rising oil output, suffered from a bigher deficit of \$2.49 billion compared with \$1.84 billion. This was due to a sharp increase in spending to \$5.69 billion from \$4.68 bil-

minimum monthly pension to 54,000 roubles (\$13.40) from the current 19,700 (\$5.00). The Federation Council. the upper bouse of parliament, passed the measure into law on Jan. 20.

But the government, already strapped by the expensive war in Chechenya, cannot afford to spend more on pensions if it is to keep anywhere near the planned 1995 budget deficit of 74 triltion roubles (\$18.3 billion).

Yeltsin

vetoes law

pensions

on boosting

MOSCOW (R) - President

Boris Yeltsin has vetoed a

parliamentary law boosting

the minimum pension, saying

while he agreed payments to

the aged should be increased,

the cash-starved country

could simply not afford the

Mr. Yeltsin sent a letter to

Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the

combanve lower bouse of

parliament, the State Duma.

saying the law - which also

introduced index-linking of

pensions - would have cost

23.6 trillion roubles (\$685)

The text of the letter was

The Russian leader instead

proposed pensions be dou-

bled and the index-linking

system be scrapped, a move

he said would compensate

the aged for price rises ion

The Duma, arguing that pensioners bad suffered the

most from Russia's hardline

economic reforms, on Jan. 18

approved the bill to boost

the last quarter of 1994.

carried by ITAR-TASS news

new measure.

million) a year.

Mr. Yeltsin, who said be bad sent the law back to parliament because it did not take government spending limits into consideration, suggested the minimum monthly to pension be boosted to 38,000 ronbles (\$9.40).

This necessary measure is aimed at maintaining the standard of living of all pensioners, especially thosae with few means," be said in the letter. The aged bave also been hared hit by rising infla-

Mexico markets react with euphoria to Clinton aid

MEXICO CITY (R) - Mextean stock prices soared mote than 10 per cent Tuesday, their biggest gain in seven years, as investors cheered a revamped economic aid package announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton for the oadon's battered economy.

The battered peso also recovered from historic lows, closing 55 centavos higher at 5.75 per dollar after falling as low as 6.5 on Monday. Mexican President Ernesto

Zedillo struck an up-beat note, saying Mexico's liquidity crisis was now "fully over-

But U.S. officials said Mexico had been standing at the brink of the abyss before President Clinton announced the bail-out package. The situation was dire in

Mexico," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at a news briefing. "There was the risk of default (on loans) and the problems that would involve not only Mexico but for the United States and for the world economy.

President Clinton, aware of the urgency of Mexico's situacion, scrapped plans to try to force up to \$40 billion in loan guarantees for Mexico through Congress. Instead be announced a reduced U.S. credit line of \$20 billion that will not require congressional approval.

He said the U.S. contribuoon would be in addition to an enhanced credit line of \$17.5 billion from the International Monetary Fund and a "short-term lending facility" of \$10 billion from the Bank of Internacional Settle-

ments.

The Mexican finance ministry said its credit lines from abroad now added up to \$50.76 billion, and the U.S. component could now be paid back over three to 10 years instead of three to six months previously.

A sense of euphoria mingled with relief rippled through Mexican markets. sending interest rates lower as the stock market soared.

"People cheered up a lot in the market with the announcement of the economic aid because the fate of the credit was what had provoked all the uncertainty, one stock market trader said.

Mr. Clintoo spoke to Mr. Zedillo from aboard Air Force One and urged him to stick to a strong, credible ecocomic programme as well as bonour previous commitments regarding immigration, law enforcement and narcoocs control.

Mr. Zedillo, in his statement, pledged no slackening of fiscal discipline.

"The fioancial package that was announced this morning means that the liquidity problem in the Mexican economy is fully overcome," he said. "The financial package in no way im-plies the slackening of our own efforts."

He said the credits woold be used to exchange bigh-cost short-term debt for longerterm, cheaper borrowing, and that Mexico's overall foreign debt bad not increased.

The Mexican central bank. which had been facing a potentially difficult auction this week of its dollardenominated Tesobono securities, decided simply to declare the auction void. We stopped the anction

after Clinton's remarks," a Banco de Mexico spokesman told Reuters, adding that investors were seeking rates way too high now that details of the new package were

Investors had asked for interest rates of up to 40 per cent to cover their risk in buying Tesobonos, the securities that are at the heart of Mexico's six-week-old econo-mic crisis because of fears that the government might not be able to repay them.

Mexico's crisis broke on Dec. 20 when the fledgling government of President Ernesto Zedillo devalued the new peso and then let it float on world markets.

U.S. cigarette exports go up by 14 per cent

WASHINGTON (R) - The in value from the same period United States exported 202 billion cigarettes in the first 11 months of 1994, 14 per cent more than the same period a year ago, the gov-ernment said Tuesday. The cigarettes were valued at \$4.53 billion, up 27 per cent

in 1993, the Agriculture partment said in its Wor Tobacco Report. Belgin and Luxembourg led the way, importing a combined 65.2 billion pieces follows by Japan, 51.2 billion; Sant Arabia, 8.73 billion.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) By getting in touch with experadvisors today you are able to get the advice and answers you're been seeking with regard to business and personal matters.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact individuals whose expensions is different or more extensive than yours so you learn much this is worthwhile and of a lofty nature for use in the future in order become more successful in your career.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A fine day to decide on policy many with associates so there is a maximum of cooperation. Take time to ome to an understanding this afternoon with those who do not MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21] By getting an early track today, you can put all those accumulated tasks behind you reductly. Your efficiency is at its utmost later this afternoon

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The ideal day and evening to same working on projects of great size and scope. Contact the right people and start the balt rolling efficiently.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Family is expecting unit from you now. Little is said so be very sure that you do your utmost this evening to bring greater harmony and security into the LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22] This is an ideal day to getting

touch with those whose actions are puzzling and from whom you want straight from the shoulder answers. Evening: Good for

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think big and get big should be your mono today, not only in business but personal artist and creadve matters as well as for your success. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 211 A day to think

pretty much of self and your most cherished ambition. If it is not necessary to go out, by all means stay at home. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Since you keep yourse

so busy with practical and material affairs, you will hardly take time for the emotional and creative things of life. Get out to a cultural AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Seek out plain speaking honest individuals today if you want to know the truth about yourself. Get fine ideas for advancement. Know how to increase

your circle of worthwhile friends. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The ideal day to get the support you need for important projects from influential fricods. Later, become interested in the problems and the needs of the public.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1995 ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look to a personal advisor if you want to become bener known or perform some task more efficiently.
This afternoon, avoid a time waster who shouldn't be allowed access.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you get out in the company of experts today, you will get a whole new viewpoint that will help you to become more efficient and successful in your own line of

CEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use tact today and that fine intuition to get the information you need from experts. This will help you get along better with both business and personal ties that are important MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try being wirty and

humorous with overly senous partners who seldom smile and you find you will make real headway today and be able to establish a far

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Higher-ups are watching you closely today, so be very sure that you perform all tasks in business or personal life in a highly efficient manner. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to devote as much time as

possible with close ties during the day, preferably at places of amusement so that you can garner the information you need. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Perform those tasks which will please close ties. Impress them with your true ability, reliability and loyalty. Strive for greater security in that important realm of

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Many benefits and opportunities are yours today provided that you consider the rights and feelings of others as well as those of your own.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure you talk over important maners with family tie who is well informed and capable and can give you excellent advice for bettering personal and

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact that personal advisor this morning that you feel is trustworthy and get the know-how for becoming more successful in your daily work and personal

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) See that you plan your daily duties so that more time is released so you can commercialise on your special talents. Have a good time this evening and spend it with those you love.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look to a trusted and devoted older person for advice that will assist you in gaining your cherished desires. PM: Plan personal activities and be out in the world of

Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

Japan earthquake funding spotlight turns to taxes

TOKYO (R) — Japan's search for funds to rebuild after the earthquake, a bill that could top \$100 billion, took another twist Wednesday after politicians floated the notion of cancelling planned income tax cuts or raising other taxes.

New Party Sakigake, the smallest member of Japan's ruling triad, is considering suggesting rises in the tobacco tax or cancelling income tax cuts planned for 1995 and 1996 to finance reconstruction from the massive earthquake which devastated the port city of Kobe on Jan. 17, a party source told Reuters.

Government sources and other party officials said they were not now considering such steps, which analysts say would anyway be difficult ahead of nationwide local elections set for April.

But they added that the possibility of tax changes could not be ruled out later, if the cost of reconstruction proved too large to fund through issuing government

"(Finance Minister Masayoshi) Takemura said all possible means would be considered, and that means you can't rule out either cancelling income tax cuts or even early implementation of the consumption tax hike." a government source said.

The government plans temporary income tax cuts worth 2 trillion yen (\$20.0 billion) in calendar 1995 and 1996 in order to stimulate the economy, but says the state of the economy will be taken into account before im-

plementing the 1996 cuts. The government also plans to raise the consumption tax from April 1, 1997, from the current three per ceot to five per cent as part of an effort to reform the tax structure.

An aide to Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) policy chief Koichi Kato said the ruling parties were not considering cancelling income tax cuts or speeding up the consumption tax rise, although some in Prime Minister Tomiicbi Murayama's Socialist Party bad earlier suggested voiding

the tax cuts. The ruling coalition, which took power last June, groups the Socialists, the LDP and the New Party Sakigake.

"Most think we can fund it by issuing construction bonds, but at any rate we don't yet have a final estimate from Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe," the aide said. Kobe is Hyogo's capital.

Hyogo Tuesday estimated the cost of the damage from the earthquake, the strongest to hit Japan in 70 years, at over 10 trillion yen (\$100 billion), media reports said. Prefecture officials were not immediately available for comment.

second sopplementary budget for the current fiscal year (to end-March 1995). and then we need to pass the 1995/96 budget quickly," the aide said. "The 1995/96 budget assumes the income tax cuts, so cancelling them would mean redrafting it, and

that would delay passage."
"Once the 1995/96 budget is passed, if we discover construction bonds are insufficient, that would be the time to put the tax issue on the

Construction bonds. bowever, are limited by law to covering public infrastructure such as roads, ports and railways, and could not finance other relief projects

That has led some politicians to suggest issuing deficit-financing bonds. which would be anathema to finance ministry officials who fear they would erode fiscal soundness

give up the income tax cuts and/or raise other taxes, or keep taxes unchanged and limit the amount the central government spends." the government source said.

The first step is to pass a

table," be added.

"They may end up being two choices — spend 10 tril-lion yen (\$100.0 billion) and

UAE people remain big spenders

ABU DHABI (AFP) - United Arab Emiraters (UAE) inhabitants are spending a record amount of money on goods and services despite government austerity measures prompted by low oil prices, an official report has

Private consumption. which covers spending by individuals on consumer goods and services, surged by 11.7 per cent to a record 71.2 billion dirhams (S19.4 billion) in 1994 from 63.7 billion dirhams (S17.35 billion) in 1993, according to the planning ministry report. The report showed private

consumption had steadily in-

creased over the past few

years and the growth was faster than that of the population.

In contrast, government consumption rose by only 4.2 per ceot to 24.5 billion dirhams (\$6.67 billion) in 1994 from 23.5 billion dirhams (\$6.4 billion) in 1993. Similar growth was recorded in previous years.

The report expected final consumption, which includes government and private consumption, to increase to 107 billion dirhams (\$29.1 billion)

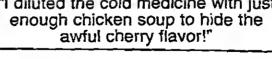
This will be coupled with a projected rise in imports to 85 billino dirhams (\$23.1 billion) from 80 billion dirhams (\$21.8 billion) in 1994.

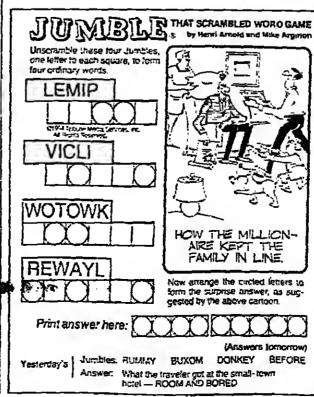
The individual's sbare of final consumption stood high as \$11,700 in 1994 and the sbare of the gross domestic proudct (GDP) at around \$16,500.

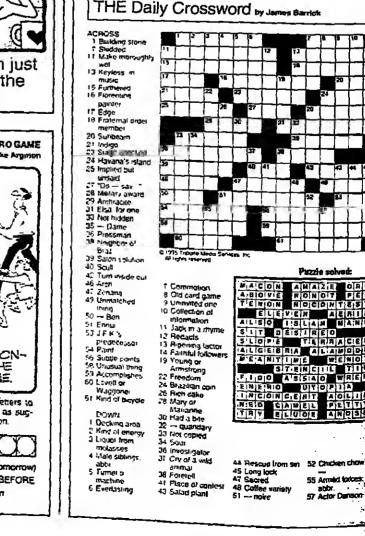
This indicates the country's nearly two million people spent an average two thirds of their income on goods and services. Bankers attributed the

high spending to a sharp growth in construction, trade, banking, insurance and other services sectors. They also cited an expansion in the private sector as a result of government incentives to boost its role in the domesoc economy following the decline in crude prices.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen GLASBERGEN "I diluted the cold medicine with just







Dusiness

Deat A review of economic news on the Arabic press

aily

Business

Jordan starts international business reply service

et The Ministry of Post and reflectommunications has med the international busireply service (IBRS) and cards or leaflets to a be filled and reed without any cost to see. This service is ung with the Unod Arab Emirates. Britain wand and Denmark. mements with other counare being worked ou: inks, companies and indimals wanting to benefit in this service within Jora with other countries mid contact the ministry to in the necessary documeors a pay the annual fee of (Al Ra'i)

AThe Ministry of Industry ed Trade has approved the and restructuring of the cional industry Company aid had accumulated ID smillion in losses and had shares suspended from sang at the Amman Finan-Market since the end of 33 The restructuring. aid is to be conducted in se stages, will result in a Di2 million paid-up capital 1 AS#30).

at Between 1.500 to 3.000 mes of oranges will be monted from the Palestim territories to cover the eas of the Jordanian masa during the month of amadan and the following rats (Sawt Al Shaab).

todanian banks which exmed their branches in sinian cities in the selfis iteas and the occupied siories are calling on de-To repay loans obtained ime June 5, 1967. Accord 平6 a specialised lawyer bans must be repaid be an Economic Security mmittee decision, issued the 1967 war, had stop the accumulation of in ats on loans and froze the ≆ of statute to ensure de in repay the loans regard s of a time-frame. Jorda banks honoured all with wals of deposits after the I from their branches in

An extraordinary gener asembly meeting of th TA Enterprises and Equip Leasing Company wi ommendation by th and of directors to merg iompany with the Jorda apany (Al Aswaq).

The board of directors Dar Al Sha'ab Pres ang. Publishing and Di ling Company has calle general assembly for a treordinary meeting c 5, 1995 to discuss re the company al Al Asway). recommendation board of directors of the

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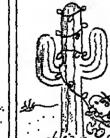
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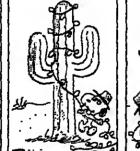
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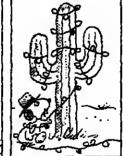
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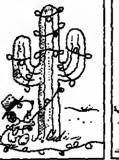
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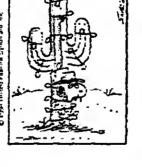








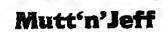












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A review

of economic news

from the Arabic press

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in that are * Jordanian banks which, reopened their branches in In hear, Palestinian cities in the self-territories are calling on dehtors to repay loans obtained before June 5, 1967. According in the ing to a specialised lawyer, the loans must be repaid because an Economic Security Committee decision, assur-mental and after the 1967 war, had stop-ped the accumulation of in-this use terest on loans and froze the ability is law of statute to ensure deless of a time-frame. Jorda-..... Man bent nian banks honoured all with-:: " a demonstrate drawals of deposits after the

> ...- ... in Be west fordan. il assembly meeting of the etra Enterprises and Equipnot and liscuss on Feb. 9, 1995 a ecommendation by the ing you persoard of directors to merge he company with the Jordan seniac and Fiulf Real Estate Investment Company (Al Aswaq).

war from their branches in

The board of directors of the Dar Al Sha'ab Press. 'nnting, Publishing and Dis-nbuting Company has called he general assembly for an xtraordinary meeting on eb. 5, 1995 to discuss resructuring the company's apital (Al Aswaq).

> rr A recommendation by e board of directors of the ehicles Owners Federation ompany to distribute 40 per ent dividend to sharebolders ssembly meeting on Feb. 6, 995 (Al Aswaq).

An economie agreement eing negotiated with Euroean (EU) countries to boost ade between Jordan and the U would entail reduction in ustoms by 50 per cent over ne coming five years and a Itally free trade after 12 ears (Al Dustour)

The drilling directorate rigation drilled 40 new 'ells, performed mainteance to 46 old wells and nade experimental water imping from about 70 wells the Kingdom in 1994. The upput so all these wells monn's to 3,000 cubic teres perhour or an over-Il amount of 26 million cubic tetres, most of which runs in e network to supply people ith drinking water. The irectorate will concentrate One sterling nis year on drilling wells outh of Amman (Al Ra'i).

Kuwait reportedly backs \$2b aluminium project

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwaiti and Saudi investors planning to build a 600 million dinar (\$2 billion) aluminium plant in Kuwait have won preliminary approval from the trade and industry ministry, according to Al Seyassah newspaper.

The group of Kuwaiti and Saudi husinessmen bad offered to establish the proeet on a two-square kilometre site at the industrial Shuaiba area south of Knwait City, it said. It did not identify the investors.

The project would be on the basis of a partnership between the Kuwaiti-Saudi investors but about 100 milbon dinars (\$335 million) of the project would be open for public subscription, the newspaper reported unidentified

sources as saying.
It said Kuwait had been chosen as the site for the project due to the low cost of electricity here. The project was still awaiting the approval of the ministry of electricity and water, the newspaper said. It gave no further details. Kuwait at present has no aluminium industry.

U.S. DoRac in International Market

Financial

CHIFTERCY

Sterling Pound

Deutsche Mark

Swiss Franc

French Franc

Japanese Yen

U.S. Dolla

Deutsche Mack

J≄panese Yen

U.S. Doftan

Sterling Pound

Deutsche Mark

Swiss Franc

Intuncte Yes

Dutch Guilder

Swedish Krone

Italian Lira

Belgins Franc

Other Currende

Lebanese Lira

Saudi Riyal

Kawaiti Dinar

Qetari Riyal

Omani Riyal

UAE Dirham

Cypries Pound

Greek Drachma

Egyptism Pound

European Currency Unit

European Curreny Unit

USD for STG Parapria Opening & EM n.m. CAST

Syria woos back foreign oil company investment

most attractive terms possible to lure back foreign oil company participation in exploration and production activi-

Syrian Oil Minister Nadir Nabulsi is in London this week to meet officials from oil companies and oil-service firms including the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, British Petroleum and British Gas to discuss ways to adapt his country's terms to meet the needs of the investor.

"I am ready with an open heart and mind to listen to them," he said.

Syria has become a significant oil producer in recent year and production has risen. from 160,000 barrels per day (b/d) in 1984 to more than 600,000 b/d last year. But Mr. Nabulsi said it

needs investment to maintain output at current levels and to boost oil revenue which will be used to further develop the country's agricul-"We need the revenue

badly now to develop agriculture. Our country is first an agricultural country," be told a small group of journalists. Oil revenue accounts for about 15-16 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. It is a member of the

Organisation of Arab Pet-

CEC-sc

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Jordan Times

Cairo Amman Bank

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LONDON (R) — Syria is roleum Exporting countries keen to offer investors the (OAPEC) but not of OPEC and sells most of its oil to Mediterranean refiners.

"We feel our terms and conditions can be changed... we're ready to modify any terms that both sides feel possible to choose," Mr. Nabulsi said.

He dismissed claims that oil companies abandoned upstream activities in Syria because of onerous terms set by the Syrian government.

"I ask them what are the easy terms?" I'd like to hear from them. We are ready to discuss and negotiate what they want. Sometimes companies like to hide behind (the guise) of terms and conditions," Mr. Nabulsi said.

Of the 12 productionsharing pacts granted by the Syrian government between 1987 and 1990, seven were relinquished in 1991-92 after the companies failed to find

significant oil deposits and only minor finds were made in three other tracts.

But Mr. Nabulsi pointed to the success of Shell and partners Pecten and Deminex which made a major discovery of light sweet crude in the Deir Ez-Zor area in the mid-1980s and subsequent dis-

coveries in the same region. "When we signed all our contacts, we didn't force the companies," he said.

According to Mr. Nabulsi, Shell has invested \$3 billion in Syria and recovered up to \$2.7 billion of its investment. Forty per cent of Syrian erude oil production is assigned to upstream jointventure partners to recoup investment costs.

Mr. Nabulsi would not discuss Syria hydrocarbon reserves and said any number he mentioned could be revised within six menths.

Indo-Jordanian joint venture admits new partner

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Indo-Jordanian Chemicals Company, a joint venture between Indian and Jordanian fertilize: and phosphate companies, have taken in a third partner with 13 per cent equity, a senior company official said Wednesday.

Bahu Varghese, deputy chairman and managing director of the Amman-based companay, said an agreement was signed this week under which the Riyadb-based Arab Investment Company contributed \$8.34 million to the venture's \$63.33 million

The Southern Indian Petrochemicals Company (SPIC), which Mr. Varghese represents, owns 52.2 per cent of the equity of the Indo-Jordanian Chemicals Company and the Jordan

Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) holds the rest.

The Arab Investment Company groups 15 Arab countries and holds equity in joint ventures in several Arah countries.

Total investment in the Indo-Jordanian Chemical Company's project, a phosphoric acid plant being built at Shidiyeh in the south, is \$169.9 million.

The company has aiready arranged financing for \$100 million from several foreign sources, including Credit Commerce de France (\$54 million), the International Financing Corporation (\$30 million), and FMO, a Dutch investment firm (\$4 million).

Mr. Varghese said he expected to sign the loan accord with the IFC, an affiliate of the World Bank, and another agreement for \$6 millin loan from a consortium of local banks this month. The loans plus the capital of the company would make up \$163.3 million of the project investment. The rest of the needed funds — \$6 million — will be advanced by three equity bolders as a loan subordinated to the other credit facilities already raised.

The phosphoric acid plant, whose annual 220,000-tonne output will be exported exclusively to fndia, is being built by Krebs and Cie of France under a S120 million turnkey contract signed last

The project is scheduled to be completed and handed over to the Indo-Jordan Chemicals Company before May 1997. Mr. Varghese said the company expects to have the

Krebs had started engineering works four or five months before a downpayment was made on the contract in November.

The Indo-Jordanian Chemicals Companay is the largest joint venture for fertilizer production in Jordan and its production is expected to further help the Kingdom's efforts to diversify its fertilizer and phosphate-related activities by focusing on finished products rather than exporting raw materials.

The international phosphate market is slowly recovering from a depression that hit in the early 90s and prices have not fully recovered. However, the market for diammonium phosphate. a ready-to-use fertilizer, has been strong since last year. But Jordan has not been able to take full advantage of the surge since a recent snowstorm and tornado damaged the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company's storage facilities in the south, rendering the company unable to export DAP in bulk. Bagged DAP costs higher and Jordan cannot offer a competitive price

in the international market, IPMC officials have said that they expect the situation to improve in the first quarter of this year after new storage facilities are built to allow export of DAP in bulk.

A Japanese consortium, in partnership with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, is also building a compound fertilizer plant in the south. The output of that plant will be exported exclusively to

Gas pipeline sponsors discuss prices with Doha

ABU DHABI (R) - A three-firm consortium, which plans to huild an undersea gas pipeline from Qatar to Pakistan is negotiating with the Gulf state about how much to pay for the gas, a Pakistani oil official has said. Crescent Petroleum,

Transcanada Pipelines Ltd and Halliburton uniut Brown and Root form a group which plans to huild the pipeline at an estimated cost of \$3.2 "Crescent is negotiating

with Qatar. They originally fixed a price of 70 cents per million cubic feets," said Syed Naseer Ahmad, secretary at Pakistan's ministry of petroleum and natural resources.

'We've been informed by the consortium that they're hopeful they can secure a

reasonable price or pin down the original 70 cents," he told Reuters during a visit by a Pakistani economic delegation to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Pakistan, which needs the gas to meet rapidly rising domestic demand, is due to sign a gas supply agreement with the pipeline consortium in the next few months, he

But before the project can go ahead, the group needs to sign a formal gas sales agreement with Oatar.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came to Qatar last August and told reporters she had agreed with Qatar's emir that work on the pipeline project "should be taken up serious-

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET MOUSING BANK CENTER ANGEN - SHATISANI TELEPHONE: 6501TC / 6631TC ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDENEDAY 01/G1/1995

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

S. \$1.00 costs	1.4702/12 1.5238/48 1.7082/92 1.2870/80 31.38/42 5.2815/65 1610.6/1.6	Canadian do Deutschema Dutch guilde Swiss francs Belgian fran French franc Italian lire
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Davis Cup World Group ties

Becker, Stich lead Germany

LONDON (R) — Boris Becker returns to Davis Cup tennis for Germany this weekend, prepared to forget his hitter rivalry with Michael Stich and play doubles alongside him.

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German Davis Cup captain Niki Pilic said the two former Wimhledon champions, who won the doubles gold medal together at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, had agreed to team up for the home tie in Karlsrube.

"I have talked to both of them and they are also prepared to play doubles together, "Pilic said.

Germany, winners three times since 1988, take on a Croatian team spearheaded by big-hitting Goran Iva-nisevic in one of eight World Group first round matches starting on Friday.

Becker, who led the Germans to their first triumph in 1988 and helped them defend the title the following year, has decided to return to the team after an absence of more than two years.

His decision to pull out of the event to concentrate on his ranking in 1993 came under heavy fire from Stich who led the country to their third victory in 1993.

At one stage of a very public slanging match, Stich, who said Becker should not be allowed to pick and choose when to play Davis Cup, said he would not represent his country if Becker

With Stich and Becker playing singles and doubles. the Germans have a good chance of clinching this weekend's de after the first three matches. But they will be wary of the lanky Iva-nisevic on the fast indoor

Holders Sweden begin their defence of the title close by in Denmark with no plans to change their 1994 winning

Former world number one Stefan Edberg, now ranked seven in the world and inform Magnus Larsson will play singles, while top class pairing Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman take care of the



Austria have one world

class player in Thomas Mus-

ter, but Alexander Anto-

nitsch, Gilbert Schaller and

Gerald Mandl are ranked

Ourside Europe South

Africa's team — Wayne Fer-raira, Marcos Ondruska,

Pietie Norval and Gary Mul-

ler — sboulder a responsibil-ity not just for winning but

for bringing back the crowds

and money to tennis when they take an Australia in

Australia have brought a

six-strong squad — Patrick Rafter, Richard Fromberg.

Jaimie Morgan and Andrew

of Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge — to South Africa, planning to make a final choice later in

The strongest tennis na-tion, the United States, take

on France without the

world's top two players Pete Samoras and Andre Agassi,

who contested the Australian

Instead Jim Courier and

Todd Martin will be joined

against a rather pale French

team, none of whose players fared well in Melbourne. But Yannick Noah, who

led France to their first vic-

tory in over half a century as

non-playing captain in 1991 when they beat the U.S. in

the final, may provide some

new spark on his return to the

His team consists of Guy

Forget, Arnaud Boetsch.

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Cedric Pioline and Olivier

Open final last Sunday.

way below.

the week.

doubles in wbat looks on paper to be a gentle warm-up

But Denmark have a habit of defying the rankings when they have the advantage of bome ground. Their team is lead by Kennetb Carlsen ranked 190 with Frederik Fetterlein (125). Patrik Langvardt (363) and Morten Christensen (659).

The Danes crashed out in the first round to the Czech Republic in 1993 and to Sweden in 1994, but posted impressive bome wins in World Group qualifiers against Argentine (1992), Croatia (1993) and Peru

Last year's losing finalists Russia are also looking forward to a none too taking tie in Antwerp against Belgium. while Switzerland, losing finalists three years ago take on the Netherlands in Gene-

Italy have a good chance in Naples against a weakened Czech Republic, whose top players Petr Korda and Karel Novacek said they would not play because of lack of interest and money. by doubles team Jared Pal-mer and Richey Reneberg

ltaiy have called uo Andrea Gaudenzi and Renzo Furlan as their singles players for the tie on clay, while Stefano Pescosolido and Cristian Brandi will form a makeshift doubles partnersbip.

By contrast, Spain have taken their strongest squad to Vienna, with French Open champion Sergi Bruguera and last year's Paris finalist Alberto Berasategui supported by Carlos Costa and Emilio Sancbez.

New arrest in Italian stabbing tragedy

MILAN (AP) — As Ita-lians prepared for the first cancelled soccer round since 1945, police Tuesday arrested a second teen-ager in the stabbing death of a Genoa fan which sparked iots and shocked the coun-

Milan police said a 17year-old youth, identified as M.G., was charged with lending the alleged killer the knife used 10 stab Vincenzo Spagnolo, 25.

Police have alleged AC Milan fan Simone Barbag-lia, 19, knifed Spagnolo in the stomach during a pregame brawl in the port city of Genoa Sunday.

Barbaglia, a-gardener decribed by police as a memher of a hard-core group of AC Milan fans, was charged with voluntary nurder.

Milan police, who seized everal knives at M.G.'s nouse, quoted the youth as saving he gave Barbaglia a knife "on his request, for self-defence." "He said he was ready to

cut Genoa fans to pieces if he was attacked," police officers quoted the youth as aying. M.G. was immediately

charged with complicity in murder and illegal posses-Sunday's murder touched off a nationwide

debate about fan violence and led to the decision by Italy's highest sports authority, the National Olympic Committee, to suspend all national sporting events on Feb. 5.

Experts estimated that bout 2 million athletes will be sidelined throughout the country Sunday. The soccer blackout will also prevent bets of about 60 billion lire (\$36 million) in the weekly pools. The suspended round of

league games will be played the next Sunday,

Pippen leads Bulls past Lakers

INGLEWOOD (R) — Scottie Pippen scored 34 points and grabbed 13 re-Bulls beat the Los Angeles Lakers 119-115 on Tues-

day.

B.J. Armstrong scored
25 points and Tony Kukoc
added 22 on 8-of-11 from the field for Chicago, which has won two straight games and four of its last six. "Scottie is a true all-

star," said Lakers coach Del Harris, "There's no question about his ability to control a ball game and I thought he was masterful

In Sacramento, Dennis Rodman's tip-in with eight seconds remaining lifted the San Antonio Spurs to their fourth straight vic-tory, a 97-96 triumph over the Kings.

David Robinson had 23

points and 13 rebounds and Sean Elliott added 19 points to pace the Spurs. Mitcb Richmond had 33 points and Spud Webb chipped in 13 for the Kings.

Sacramento took a 96-95 lead with 1:02 remaining on a basket by Olden Poly-nice. Robinson missed a shot for San Antonio, but Rodman tipped in the rebound. The Kings had one more possession but turned it over in the final seconds.

In New York, Derek Harper scored a seasonhigh 26 points to lead the Knicks to a 90-87 win over the short-banded Golden State warriors.

Harper's seventh 3pointer of the game with 40 seconds left extended a two-point lead to 88-83 and sealed the win for the Knicks, who have won eight of nine and 16 of their last 18 games. Patrick Ewinghad 19 points and 14 rebounds for New York, which set a team record with 13 3-pointers.

Tim Hardaway netted 24 points for the Warriors but was held scoreless in the fourth quarter.

The Warriors, already without injured startes Rony Seikaly and Chris Mullin, played witbout leading scorer Latrell Sprewell and key reserve Clifford Rozier. Sprewell has a sprained foot and rozier was suspended by the team for one game for missing a team shootar-

Golden State was further hampered when Tom Gugliotta left the game with a

bruised right knee in the second quarter. He did not return, leaving the War-riors with just eight play-

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 25 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked sbots as the Rockets cruised to an 86-74 victory over the slumping Denver Nuggets.

Otis Thorpe bad 15 points, Mario Elie added 12, and Vernon Maxwell chipped in 10 for the Rock-

ets, who have won three of their last four games. Rodney Rogers had 23 points to lead Denver.

which has dropped seven of its last eight games. At Wasbington, Muggsy Bogues scored 20 points

and Hersey Hawkins added 17 points and 11 rebounds as the Charlotte Homets defeated the Bullets 97-88.

Scott Burrell and Land Johnson scored 15 point apiece, Deli Curry addel 14 and Alonzo Mounting chipped in 12 for Charlott which posted its third

straight win.
Calbert Cheaney scored
23 points and Rex Chapman; had 18 to pace the Bullets, who bave split their last six games.

115



Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Buils #33 goes up against an opponent (AFP photo)

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French sv solo swi

on the coast of Barbados, where His condinon is very good he's very fired. said he's plagman, the U.S. Wkesman for Sector duical team monitoring

Arompanied by an un-Delage set out to swim 2,440-mile (3_904minetre) route to the West minetre) route to the West mine on Dec. 16 from the line verde Islands, off the

Nordiques go

WEBEC CITY (R) — Joe sire had a goal and three mists and Uwe Krupp and a pair of power-ply steel as the Quebec Noroisimproved to 5-0 with a victory over the Phi-lephia Flyers Tuesday. Suc scored a shorthanded with 2:33 left in the first nod to tie the game at 2-2 elesisted on Quebec's finwhere goals.
We played another smart and a solid third god," said Sakic, whose

has not allowed a thirdnot goal this season, out-mag the opposition 9-0 in ha final 20 minutes of its first ingames.

Impo put the Nordiques that to stay when he beat

m Hextall with a slap shot the blue line at the mark of the second wind. Wendel Clark and



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French swimmer doing first solo swim across Atlantic

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - A French adventurer trying to swim the Altantic Ocean is just days away from becoming the first human to cross an ocean.

Guy Delage, 42, is about 350 miles (560 kilometres) off the coast of Barhados, where he is expected to end his omney oo Feb. 9.

"His condition is very good but he's very tired," said but he's very tired," said Kevin Plagman, the U.S. spokesman for Sector Oceanantes, the Paris-hased technical team monitoring the French swimmer's trip, on Tuesday.

Accompanied by an unmanned raft loaded with supolies, Delage set out to swim he 2,440-mile (3,904kilometre) route to the West lodies on Dec. 16 from the Cape Verde Islands, off the Western Coast of Africa.

QUEBEC CITY (R) — Joe Sakic had a goal and three assists and Uwe Krupp

scored a pair of power-ply goals as the Quebec Nordi-

ques improved to 5-0 with a

Sakic scored a shorthanded

goal with 2:33 left in the first

period to tie the game at 2-2

and assisted on Quebec's fin-

game and a solid third

period," said Sakic, whose

dnh has not allowed a third-

period goal this season, out-

scoring the opposition 9-0 in

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Krupp put the Nordiques

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"We played another smart

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Scort Burrell and Law

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ladciphia Flyers Tuesday.

victory over the Phi-

He swims holding ooto a 2-foot (0.6-metre) float which cootains a survival mini-raft, a desalinisation device, a distress beacon, a compass, and a special underwater rifle to

ward off sharks. Delage swims for about 10 hours a day and sleeps ahoard the 15-foot (4.5meter) raft, which has its own guidance and propulsion system. The raft can also repel sharks and poisonous jellyfish with a system that sends out electric shocks.

Two weeks into his journey, Delage had to fight severe seasickness, which was followed by severe depression and monotony.

In early January, a storm knocked out computer equipment that drifts near him or in his unmanned raft. Delage has devices hooked up to his body that transmit daily phy-

Krupp scored 2:57 apart in

the third period to extra Quebec's lead to three goals.

NHL player of the week on

Monday, needed only 20

saves to earn his fifth win in

as many starts. He did not

allow a goal in the final 48:26

Scott Young's first goal of the

season just 35 seconds into

the contest. But the Flyers

claimed a 2-1 advantage on

first-period goals from Eric

Lindros and Josef Beranek.

At New Jersey, Bill

NY Islanders

New Jersey

Quebec took a 1-0 lead on

of the game.

Fiset, who was named the

siological data to his Parishased support team.

The team says that about 20 per cent of the data they planned to collect was lost during the failure," said Julie Wellik, another U.S. spokeswoman for Oceanantes.

The Paris team has been collection position, speed, route and water temperature by daily communications with Delage. They are also monitoring his physical condition, his mental state and nutritional intake.

Last week, Delage was heartened at he sight of North American sooty terns, the first sign that he was close to land fall, Plagman said.

Delage is expected to talk to the media at a news conference in the Marriott Sam Lord's Castle Hotel in Barbados following his landing.

over the Buffalo Sahres.

The Devils (1-3-1), who opened the season with four

road games, won their fourth

straight home opener. New Jersey, the last NHL team to

play a home game, improved

to 4-0-2 in its last six home

scored two power-play goals and Jamie McLennan made

15 saves, leading the New

York Islanders to a 5-1 vic-

tory over the Panthers.

At Florida, Steve Thomas

Openers.

Results

5 Florida

2 Buffalo 5 Philadelphia

Nordiques go 5-0 with win over Flyers Guerin's second goal of the In first-round matches on game gave the Devils their first victory of the season, 2-1

Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu, an Australian open quarterfinalist, had an easier joh, trouncing American veteran Zina Garrison-Jackson 6-1.

Both vulnerable. West deals

K 6542 + K J 9 EAST

NORTH

Date reaches Drechsler Pan Pacific eager to jump TOKYO (R) - Japan's Kimiko Date and Iva Majoli of Croatia secured their

places io the quarter-finals of the \$806,250 Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament after second round victories on Wednesday. Kersee

Date easily took the first set 6-1 in her match against compatriot and qualifier Yone Kamio, but theo dropped the second 6-2 after some crratic play.

quarters

But the fifth seed showed solid form in both service and grouodstrokes to take the third set 6-2.

The injury forced her to retire from last month's New South Wales Open semifinal against Lindsay Daveoport of the United States. Date will meet the winner

of Thursday's second-round match between top seed Conchita Martinez of Spain and Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki. Majoli shrugged off a tough challenge from Dutch woman Kristic Boogert to take her match 3-7, 7-6, 6-4.

Wednesday, sixth seed Anke Huber of Germany beat American Gigi Fernandez 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, while seventh seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria took only 55 minutes to dispose of Japanese qualifier Al Sugiyama 6-1.

Japanse Kyoko Nagatsuka, a wild care entry following the withdrawal of defending champinn Steffi Graf, beat American Debbie Graham 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

against Joyner-

NEW YORK (R) - Nobody can make Heike Drechsler jump like Jackie Joyner-

Because the German world champion long jumper doesn't often go up against the American ex-champion, Drechsler regards Friday's contest at the Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden as "the best competition of the indoor season, just because I get to jump against Jackie.

The confrontation between the two greatest jumpers of the past decade highlights a meet that includes 11 Olympic and 19 world champions. including Russian pole vani-ter Sergei Buhka, Moroccan legend in the mile Said Aouita and U.S. decathlete Dan O'Brien.

Since 1983, when Drechsler won her first world title at age 18, either she or Joyner-Kersee has ranked as the world's leading long jumper in each year except 1989, when neither woman com-

Dreehsler had won 27 straight long jump competitions before pulling out of the 1987 World Championships in Rome. It was there that Joyner-Kersee began dominating the event, winning a string of gold medals that included the 1988 Olympic title in Seoul and the 1991 World Championships in

North East Pass 2 3 + 4 Pass Pass

The history of hattles is full or examples where victors was achieved by splintering the enemy



Heike Drechsler of Germany soars through the air (AFP photo)

Tokvo That lasted until the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, where Drechsler, silver medallist in Seoul, finished first and Joyner-Kersee was third. Drechsler also captured the gold medal on home soil, at the '93 worlds in

Stuttgart.
What's more, the on-field rivals have become fast offfield friends.

"Of course when we are in competition, Jackie is my greatest motivation to jump far," said Drechsler. "But out of compension, we like each other very much. The first time 1 met ber was in '87. She is a very nice person, very natural and never arro-

The same could be said of the soft-spoken Drechsler, the angular, graceful native of Jena in the former East Germany, where fraternising with rivals from across the wall was strongly discoureged.

GOREN BRIDGE

countries" Drechsler said. "It was forbidden. 1'm so glad that's history now. We can talk or go to dinner or talk about which events we will

The choice of events seems greater than ever for Drechsler, who, in 1984, equalled the 200-metre world record set hy countrywoman Marita Koch and who last year, in her first multi-sport event since 1982, sported the best heptathlon score of the year with 6741 points.

Until then, the heptathlon had been the domain of Joyner-Kersee, the double Olympic champ and world-record holder. "I did the heptathlon just for fun," said Drechsler, who is now thinking of training for the event at either the 1995 World Championships in Goteborg, Sweden or the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. "I think if I compete against Jackie, it will motivate me for a better score," Drechsler said.

So far the German has competed once during the indoor season, leaping 6.96 metres in Grenohle, France on Sunday. Still, Drechsler insisted she does not like to jump indoors. "Not at all," she said. "I like the summertime and the sun."

Still, Drechsler recalls the intimate atmosphere of Madison Square Garden where a creaky, woodchipped 110-metre track is wedged along the wall supporting the lower rows of spectators. "The people are so close," she says. "That you can feel all of their

Drechsler competed once in the Garden, ironically setting two world indoor records in the morning qualifying ses-sion of the 1987 U.S. indoor championships, which fewer than 100 spectators attended.

diamonds, but formulated a flawed

campaign, Instead, declarer should have crossed to the are of hearts at

10:09 mark of the second Tampa Bay 4 Montreal period. Wendel Clark and JORDAN" = KIVER & 20% TO OVER 50% DISCOUNT • QUILTS • BAGS • SHADES • FRAMES " DURING RAMADAN " OPENING HOURS 10:00AM - 4:00PM EXCEPT FRIDAY S 3 Alegan School

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If you have registered during 1994, please confirm your continuing presence in Jordan by re-registering as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

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PHILADELPHIA

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

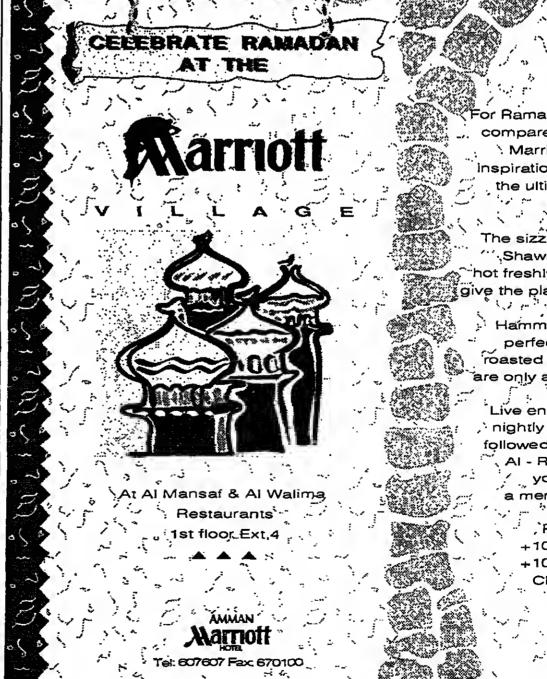
ever the green basze can often be settled by the same factic East's two hearts would have warmed the rockles of Caspar Miliquetoast's heart—our choice would have been four hearts. And as don't think we would have sold out to four spades with either the East or West holding—five hearts is a cheap sainfire at any volnerability. Furturately, for East-West, declarer provided a little balon.

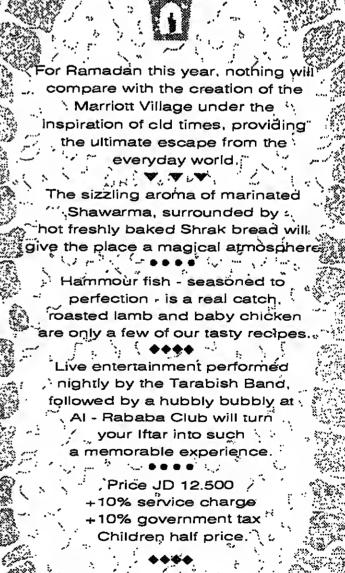
West led the jack of diamonds

and East did well to signal with the ten allowing declarer to win in hand with the queen. Trying to present a diamond overruff, declarer immedidiamond overruif, declarer immediately went after trumps by leading low to the queen and back to the jack. West won the second trump and reverted in a diamond to partner's acc. A diamond return promoted a trump for West whether declarer ruffed high or low and the acc of clubs scaled declarer's fate.

South had the right idea about

trick two and returned the jack. No oralter what card East plays declar-er simply discards the diamond los-er from hand. The defenders are helpless. Declarer will ruff the dia-mond return and force out the acc of spades. Since East has no entry for the trum promotion, declarer loses. he trump promotion, declarer loses only one trump by playing West for A Q, a heart and the ace of spades and the contract is in the bag.





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Shows: 2:30, 6:00

bensai

U.N. installs more monitors in Iraq, plans more work

BAGHDAD (Agencies) ___ BAGHDAD (Agencies) — saying this goal U.N. experts have installed achieved in 1995. more weapons monitoring equipment in Irag but are not yet ready to certify full Iraqi compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms, a U.N. official said on Wednesday.

Gnran Wallen, director of the United Nations monitoring centre in Baghdad, said several teams of U.N. inspectors and experts have visited Iraq already in 1995 and added: "We have deployed more censors and equipment at Iraq's weapons sites."

He said discussions were continuing with fraq for a fuller picture of past weapons activities, particularly in the biological warfare area.

'There have been some signs of improvement in the biological sphere." Mr. Wallen told Reuters. He declined to elaborate.

He added that more needed to be done before the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms declared Baghdad was in full

There is no way to say when monitoring will be in place," Mr. Wallen said. "A lot of equipment still needs to be installed. There are a lot of censors to put in place and new adjustments are needed for previous installations."

He said more laboratories were needed and a high level of security was needed as the Iragis feared information collected through monitoring would slip into the hands of other countries.

Mr. Wallen said supply of missing data by Iraq would help the U.N.'s efforts to put the arms monitoring programme in place. He added that the U.N. had just started previsional monitoring in for biological warfare materials.

lrag says it has fully honoured all obligations to have a ban on its oil exports, imposed when it invaded Kuwait in 1990, eased or lifted. Iraqi arms official said it was just a matter of time to fulfill remaining U.N. de-

The United Nations Security Council, under pressure from the United States, voted last month to leave the sanctions on Iraq intact.

Mohammad Bager Al Hakim, leader of Iraq's Shiite Muslim opposition, called in an interview published Wednesday for Kuwait's help

"We can give the Kuwaiti people this good news if they accept to play a role in supporting the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam," he told the independent daily newspaper Al Qabas.

"If all those who were harmed hy Saddam participate, there will be a real chance for doing that." he added, without elaborating on the support he wants. Sheikh Hakim has visited

Kuwait at least three times since a U.S.-led coalition evicted occupying Iraqi troops in the Gulf war four years ago.
On Monday, the senior

Shiite cleric met with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. Details of their discussions

were not disclosed. Sheikh Hakim told the newspaper the Iraqi opposition believes the "Iraqi people had a real chance to overthrow" the Iraqi president who has survived many coup and assassination

Twenty Iraqi air force and army officers were reportedly executed last month for plotting the latest attempt that also aimed to kill his family and too lieutenants.

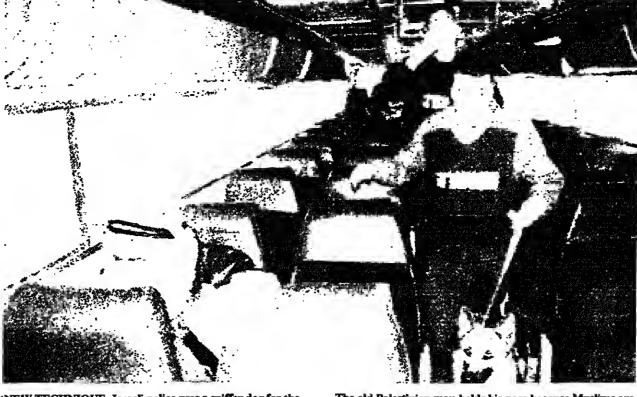
The senior Shiite cleric said he had "accurate numbers and information" indicating that the Iraqi army will support a popular uprising when circumstances are right and that the "regime will not be able to confront a general mobilisation of the army.'

He said when this happens. he did not want any foreign meddling in his country.

"What is required from the international community during the operation is not to interfere in Iraq. But we want it to protect the Iraqi people from genocide that could be perpetrated by the regime," the opposition leader said.

he said the regime has cut off the ears and branded the forebeads of 3,000 army deserters, and arrested another 3,000 two months ago in Mosul, Al Ramadi and Bagh-dad. About 300 remain in custody today.

"Political freedom... and good relations with neighbours should be the basis for Iraq's future government,"



NEW TECHNIQUE: Israeli police uses a sniffer dog for the first time on Tuesday, checking vehicles and Palestinians at the Al Ram roadblock on the main road north of Jerusalem. not supposed to go near dogs during Ramadan, the fasting

U.N.report slams Israel's occupation

GENEVA (AFP) - Israel's continuing military grip on the occupied territories was slammed in a scatning new United Nations report on human rights Wednesday.

The report's author Rene Felber registered his disgust at the situation by asking the U.N.'s Human Rights Committee, meeting here this week, to remove him from his post as special rapporteur

on the occupied territories. The publication of the report. he said, served only to "salve the conscience of the international community. It is an alibi role that 1 refuse." "Only states, through bilateral or multilateral rela-

tions can influence the Israeli government or the peace process negotiators," he said. The strongly-worded re-port is published a day before

Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian leaders in Cairo which will focus on the negotiations to extend Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank. The talks have been suspended since a suicide bombing on Jan. 22 killed 21 Israelis.

Mr. Felber is the only U.N. official with a mandate authorising him free access to Israel and the occupied territories, which he visited last October.

He said the behaviour of the Israeli army had not changed since the September agreement which created the Palestinian Author-

Mr. Felber, a former Swiss foreign minister, criticised the army's tactic of arbitrary arrests, the sealing-up of

a hastily-convened summit of Palestinian houses, and "interrogations carried out in unacceptable conditions."

the military occupation of the

"Let us stop imagining that

territory by a foreign army is compatible with respect for human rights as we under-stand and define them." The Israeli troops stirred up hatred against the Palesti-

nians, he said, citing the example of a Palestinian family brutally expelled from their Ramallah home in the middle of the night of Oct. 19, whose honse was ransacked.

Mr. Felber criticised the Israeli policy of extending Israeli settlements inside the occupied territories. Israelis controlled the water supply, he said, and as a result, the Palestinians received less and had to pay more than Israeli

He attacked the "Israelisation" of the city of Hebron where Palestinians were orevented from living a normal life and were being forced to leave, while in Gaza City, the Palestinian authorities were crumbling under the weight of problems."

The Gaza economy was

struggling with 60 per cent

unemployment, the widespread availability of arms which made security difficult, and the lack of infrastructure, Mr. Felber said. The U.N. rapporteur also criticised the "precarious conditions" for detainees

held in the Ketziot military camp in the desert. He said the international

community had a duty to provide political and financial support for the peace pro-

Filali reappointed premier and his statement enunciated

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has asked Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali to form a new government from the centre-right parliamentary majority. Dr. Filali, a 67-year-old

liberal, has since November 1994 headed a cabinet of technocrats, which a palace statement said would continue in a caretaker capacity. Dr. Filali would retain his st as minister of foreign

The king also appointed

affairs and enoperation, it

sitional government. said Driss Basri, the powerful interior minister, was certain 10 retain the post he has held

PARIS (Agencies) — France

stepped up pressure on Algeria on Wednesday to

move towards a settlement of

its civil strife, strongly urging

the country to take a plan

drafted by opposition politi-

Paris "ardently hopes that

the Algerian government will

see in this (plan) the begin-

ning of a process that can

converge with its own efforts

and reignite a drive towards

peace and democracy," De-

fence Minister Francois

His statement, in an opin-

ion article in the conservative

daily Le Figaro, was the

strongest endorsement vet by

a French official of the joint

peace proposal signed by

leading opposition parties

Officials until now had

merely cited the proposal and

urged Algiers 10 open a dia-

logue with fundamentalist

Muslims who renounce vio-

The Algerian government

has so far rejected the

opposition plan as a pasis for

dialogue. The country has

been shaken by violence

since the army-backed au-

thorities cancelled 1992

general elections that the fun-

damentalist Islamic Salvation

Front (FIS) was poised to

Up to 30,000 people have

died in the ensuing three

last month in Rome.

lence.

Leotard said.

cians as a basis for talks.

for more than 20 years. The king dropped plans to name a prime minister from the opposition parties last

An official source said Dr. Filali was unlikely to make changes in other "strategic" ministries like finance and

married to one of the king's three daughters, is a liberal lawyer with a diplomatic career spanning nearly 40

ment will ensure continuity at a time of economic transition

The king was angered by

what the country suspected was blocking formation of a coalition government after 30 years of right-wing rule. The opposition, which in-

itially refused to have any role in government after declaring last year's elections falsified, later relented but insisted that the prime minister be allowed a free hand to name ministers, including or interior minister. The opposition parties

hold 125 seats in the 333-seat chamber of representatives. Dr. Filali first entered government in 1968 as minister

of higher education, having served with the Foreign Ministry in the 1950s with the rank of plenipotentiary minister after obtaining a doctorate in law from Paris University. Born in Fez to a disting-

uished family. Dr. Filali speaks fluent French, Spanish and English as well as his native Arabic. He has also served as ambassador to Madrid and the United Na-

U.S. cites PNA for rights abuse

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - Palestinians are guilty of some of the same abuses they once accused Israel of since they took control of some functions in Gaza and Jericho last May, the State Depart-ment said Wednesday.

Elsewhere, praising prog-ress in the Middle East peace process, the U.S. also urged an end to special U.N. human rights scrutiny of Israeli practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In a speech to the U.N. Human Rights Commission,

U.S. delegate Geraldine Ferraro backed a recommendation by U.N. investigator Rene Felber that his mission should come to an end.

man rights and there should

serious rights violations con-tinued unchecked.

The European Union said in a statement that the rights situation remained "of great concern, not least because of the expansion of Israeli set-

mission should reject the excessive and unproductive thetoric which has characterised

Nobel Peace Prize winners Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, bave put bope and human rights ahead of hatred,"

noted that the Palestinian National Anthority (PNA) assumed authority for Gaza and Jericbo only in May and so, "it is difficult to assess fully the (PNA's) human rights record for the period under review."

the one extrajudicial killing, involving a detainee in cus-tody, individuals were charged with misconduct in the case, but none has been brought to trial.

tions by Israel of Palestinians

rogation."

The report accused Russia of a string of human rights violations, including the overuse of force in breakaway Chechenya, dismal prison conditions, police beatings and cruel hazing of military recruits.

The report also faults China as "an anthoritarian state" that failed to improve its record of "widespread and well-documented buman rights abuses" during a year when President Clinton extended Beijing's favoured trading status.

marily from information gathered by U.S. diplomatie

U.S. embassy in Baghdad. the report said an abysmal record did not improve and worsened in several areas. There was mass executions of political opponents. widespread use of torture, extreme repression of ethnic groups, disappearances and

said.

and excessive force, it said.

President Boris Yells

MOSCOW (AFP) - Rus

turned 64 Wednesday, but does not like fuss and will be no bouquets in Volume 19 Kremlin today," his chiefy protocol, Vladimir Si chenko, said here. Mr. Sichenko, said here. Mr. Sichenko told the ITAR: The news agency that the product was scheduled to several working meeting and that he always tried to avoid public appearances; his birthday. His estatements his birthday. His schedul Wednesday included meetings with business leaders of economie reform in Rus and with the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch, Ala II. The president was due a spend the evening at how with family and friends Yeltsin usually marks h birthdays at home with family and old pals as well with his children and grand children," Mr. Shevchen said. The president and

wife Naina have two daily ters, one grandson and granddaughters. Woman survives jump from Golden Gate bridge

official who spotted the

Murder over

COLOMBO (AFP)

Sri Lankan capital Colomba

a local daily reported

Wednesday. The victim that

to settle the dispute over #

joined in, triggering a fire-for-all last week at Batural

vidual who had struck

victim's head with heavy

Old Tasmanlan

giobal warming

SYDNEY (R) - Studies of

10,500-year-old tree, one of

the world's oldest lives

organisms, found on Auditia's island state of Tasmahave shown unusual governing over the passivears, scientists said Tasmahavears, scientists

day. Ed Cook, a timber dating specialist from Co

umbia University in the Uni

ited States, said analysis of

the tree's trunk rings provided a temperature cord for the past 3,800 results ince the early 1960s

been unusually warm and

have to go back 2,000 years to find a period of compatible warmth," Mr. Cook to Renters by telephone from Tasmania. "In the past 3 years there has only been the past 30 years 40 years

years there has only been other 30-year period that his been warmer than today period." Mr. Cook said record was useful for most toring global warming the effects of greenly gases.

tree shows

unusual

sed Friday that the aim of hursday's landmark summit inween the leaders of Israel. SAN FRANCISCO (R) Empt. Jordan and the Pales-in Liberation Organisation woman apparently attempting suicide survived a 2014 (60-metre) jump from the Golden Gate Bridge; the Coast Guard said. People in quently commit suicide by jumping off the bridge and 985 people have ended their lives there since the bride opened in May 1937, official say. Only about 25 people are known to have survived the fall. The 43-year-old woman in peace which would conine "to act in the direction was picked up by a Coast apeace in the Middle East." Guard life boat soon aftershe jumped from the South Tow-He held five hours of talks

jumped from the South Forer of the orange suspension bridge which spans the sair ance to San Francisco Hay Coast Guard Petty Officer Jeff Murpby said. The woman suffered cuts and complained of pain in the right arm, but was "alert and responsive" when she has rescued from the sea, Officer Murphy said. The Coast Guard, which is stationed near the bridge, was alerted by a Golden Gate Bridge official who spotted the

aragements" as a precondi-

proposals to build higher bu riers have met objections on im for peace. cost grounds and because it Abdul Halim Khaddam and the statement in an merview recorded in Damasas last week and broadcast fiday by Lebanon's Future Idevision, a private Beirut station owned by Prime

cent of Syria's position conzined little that was new. an it underlined Syria's demination to hang tough in

underpayment of 50 cents (one U.S. cent) for the buish state for a year-old cigarettes, but bystander Demate in Israel's negotiaions with Syria and Lena-

amascus also insists on a

omplete philiback from a order enclave in South thanon which Israel has suched in one form or spite since 1978. "We shall not sign a peace

letally relinquish South The Syrians and

de insists on disarming banon's Iranian-backed dite Muslim guerrillas of libbollah, or Party of God. precondition for a withdemai from South Lebanon. As far as we're con-Khaddam said. Security arrangements

King Hassan had been ex-Meziane to fill the public works portfolio in the tranpected to reappoint Dr. Filali after talks with the opposi-

joint holding company to promote economic cooperation, officials said Wednesday. The ferry service is likely to start in September, they said. No further details were provided. Pakistan will also help establish a rice mill and a fertiliser plant in Oman and provide training facilities to Omani personnel in telecommunications, postal service and agriculture, an official statement said. The two sides also agreed to accelerate the export of good quality Pakistani Basmati rice to Oman. A council of businessmen would be reactivated so that the private sector could play more effective role in economic and technical cooperation. The agreements were reached after the conclusion of the second session of the Pakistan-Oman Joint Ministerial Commission here late Tuesday.

Netherlands seeks defence pact with UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) - The Netherlands is seeking a defence oact with the United Arab Emirates, a senior Dutch official said Tuesday. Visiting State Secretary for Defence Jan C. Gmehch Meijling told a late night news conference that the pact would cover cooperation, training and technology transfer. The Dutch official met earlier Tuesday with Sheikh Mohammad Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, the UAE's deputy chief of staff. He was accompanied on the visit by Vice Admiral Nico W.G. Buis, commander-inchief of the Royal Netherlands Navy. Mr. Meijling said that the Netherlands has sold the UAE the so-called "Goalkeeper system," a missile defence system, and some radars. He said 18 Dutch companies will take part in the International Defence Exhibition (Idex 95), which will be held here in March. Mr. Meijling said the Netherlands was committed to Gulf security, adding that its goal at the exhibition was not only to sell, but to arrange for exercises with the UAE navy. The Netherlands is one of the world's top manufacturers of naval products along with the United States, Britain, France and Germany.

Contest for best story on 'anxious' Rushdie

TEHRAN (AFP) - Itan said Wednesday it plans to hold a contest for the best short story on the "anxiety-ridden" life of British author Salman Rushdie who has been in hiding since Tehran imposed a death sentence six years ago. The Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO) will award a top prize of 10 gold coins and a plague of honour to the author wno best depicts Mr. Rushdie's "horror-and anxietyridden" life, the official news agency IRNA said quoting the IPO. The winner of the first prize which is worth around \$1,500 and the 10 runners up - who will also receive prizes - will be announced on June 5. IPO, which was set up after the 1979 Islamic revolution to propagate Iran's revolutionary ideas worldwide, repeatedly undertakes moves to condemn Mr. Rusbdie. IRNA said IPO had proposed the contest because Mr. Rushdie had "himself

'Informant allowed New York explosion'

NEW YORK (R) - The U.S. government informant in the trial of a blind cleric and 11 others accused of plotting to blow up New York as allowed the world Trade Centre to be bombed so be could turn a profit, a defence lawyer said on Tues-

"Emad Salem is a man who gave the FB1 the (suspects') names afterward... that should make you sick," Valerie Amsterdam told an anonymous jury of seven women and five men in Man-

hattan federal court. Her opening statement was part of the defence team's effors in the case against Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, 56, and 11 others who are accused of plotting a series of bombings and assas-

sinations. Prosecutors said the defendants planned to "wage a war of urban terrorism" in the United States to punish the nation for its support of Israel

and Egypt. Much of the government's case will be based on tapes provided by Mr. Salem, a former officer of the Egyptian armv.

Defence lawyers have spent the last two days attacking Mr. Salem's credibility, alleging he was working as a "double agent" for Egypt and the Federal

Bureau of Investigation.
Prosecutors admitted Mr. Salem was paid \$1 million for his help in this case, and have conceded that he had lied about his background in an unrelated trial.

Defence lawyer Jerry Tritz, in his opening remarks. said Mr. Salem was helping the Egyptian government take revenge on Abdul Rahman, who advocates its overthrow. Sheikh Abdul Rahman was tried three times in Egypt but was never con-

victed. "The crimes were masterminded by a foreign government and that government is Egypt and its agent is Emad Salem," Mr. Tritz told the

At the same time, Mr. Salem sought a way of winning a big fee from the U.S. government. Defence lawvers said he lured their clients into the scheme and turned them into the FBI. Ms. Amsterdam said the

FB1 had dropped Mr. Salem

as an agent in 1992 because

they did not trust him.

Officials say his reappoint-

one of the present ministers. public Works Minister Mohammad Hassad, as managing director of the stateowned airline Royal Air Maroc, whose finances are being investigated Dr. Filali. The king asked Minister of

Agriculture Abdul Aziz There were no other details out official sources have

month after the four-party alliance insisted on Dr. Basri's removal as a condition for taking part in a coalition gov-

Dr. Filali, whose son is

and reassure the business community wary of political

tion broke down last month. an opposition demand that Mr. Basri, who is also information minister, should go

Western intelligence esti-

Mr. Leotard reiterated that

Paris presses Algiers on Rome call years of strife, according to

> a solution to Algeria's woes was up to Algerians alone and said that France, its for-Algerians observed five mer colonial master, could only encourage it while providing economic aid. He also acknowledged that the joint opposition proposal was flawed in that it failed to

tively and, although it was endorsed by the FIS, failed to include other militant Islamic groups operating in Algeria. But these questions, raised appropriately for purposes of analysis, must not become pretexts for denying

the hope that the Rome

denounce "terrorism" defini-

agreement represents." he The plan was appealing, he said, because it was an Algerian document written by Algerians that "constitutes a veritable road map towards reconciliation and democra-

The article was published two days after a suicide bomb attack on Algiers police headquarters that killed 42 people.

A leader of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), condemned the carbomb attack, the independent daily La Tribune of Algeria reported Wednes-

Two other opposition movements on Wednesday also denounced the attack, for which responsibility has not yet been claimed.

minutes' silence in memory of the victims at I.000 p.m. (1200 GMT) Wednesday, during which sirens were sounded. The call was issued jointly by the government and the trade union federation and employers' federation during negotiations Tuesday. "Ali Djeddi said he was

revolted by this attack that nobody can understand," the Tribune said, adding that the FIS official had called for a "thorough investigation to establish everyone's responsibilities before God and the people.' The paper said that as Mr.

Dieddi enjoyed the confidence of all the FIS leadership and in particular of its president, Abassi Madani. his statement could be seen as the movement's official stance on the matter. Mr. Dieddi, who was sent-

enced to four years' prison by a military court in Blida and detained with six other FIS leaders, including Mr. Madani said his deputy Ali Belhadj, was freed in February last year. Mr. Madani said Mr. Belhadj were freed last September but placed under house arrest.

Mr. Felber, who is scheduled to present his report to the 53-nation body Friday, concluded that political condemnation had failed to improve Israeli respect for hn-

be a change in methods.

Algeria disagreed with the recommendation, and said

We believe that the com-

the debate on the Middle East all too often in the past," commented Ms. Fer-"Let us recognise and hon-our those who, like this year's

The State Department re-port released in Washington

It said that in the case of

The report concludes that despite such problems there were "clear improvements m the buman rights situation in the occupied territories in 1994," including no deporta-

for the second straight year. But it also said "there were credible reports that during 1994 Israel mistreated, and in some cases tortured, Palestinians during arrest and inter-

The report is compiled pri-

missions around the world. - Iraq, where information was drawn from non-U.S. sources because there is no arbitrary detention.

- Iran, where information also was obtained from non-U.S. sources, there was no evidence of improvement in 1994, systematic abuses include arbitrary arrests and detentions, widespread use of torture and summary executions. "There is a lively and open debate on political issues, but the ruling clerics effectively control the electoral process," the report

- Turkey, in armed conflict with the Kurdish Labour Party, restricts the press and keeps civilians out of certain areas when it declares a state of emergency. The human rights situation worsened signficantly, with police and security forces using torture

TEL AVIV (AP) — Almost a plane belonging to King board a shis guests. Israel Radia Amman as his guests are headed by interstators will be headed by interstators beads of all the main interstation the report cair.

hamman as will be headed in legislators will be heads of all the maint is legislators of all the report said. The standard to representatives of all minimum to representatives of all minimum to report said. The forest sandary morning and return to the said of the report said. The forest said of the prime Minister Yitzha forden by Prime Minister Yit Yeltsin turns 64 'without fuss'

> Number 5835 Israel sa (whined agency dispatches

CAIRO - Arab leaders won CAIRO — Arab leaders won a pledge from Israel at the bathark summit here to respect talks with the Palestinate but failed to make bathary on a pullback of leading troops on the Windows stell troops on the West But the closure of the terrimiss or an end to settlement All three issues have dog-

gnesset member

diegonations to extending Was Bank, throwing the iniin timetable way off sche-But an Egyptian official

(PLO) was "not to resolve be outstanding issues bemen the Israelis and the Instead it was aimed "at gring up a mechanism to nive these problems." Israeli Prime Minister Yittak Rabin on Friday cailed he meeting "a turning point"

woman banging from the ERUT (AP) — Syria's vice bridge and then saw hered product Friday reiterated go. Officer Murphy said it is Damascus will settle for was very rare for someone to thing less than a total survive a jump from the Golden Heights with "equal has only low railings and and balanced security and balanced security

would spoil the view. one-cent dispute Musice Rafik Al Hariri. man who tried to defuse Mr. Khaddam's restateheated argument between his friend and a shopkeeper of the price of two cigaretts was beaten to death near the

tortuons war of nerves ith Israel, hoping the Amercans will pressure Israel into. Mr. Khaddam blamed the

dara, near here, the Link adeepa daily said. The new paper said two suspects have been arrested, and police were looking for a third individual who had a track the said to be a said to be "Objectively, no progress the Israelis have not changed or intransigence." he said. sael refuses to commit self to a complete withdrawfrom the Golan until amascus agrees to complete ormalisation of relations in the Jewish state. Mr. Khaddam, architect of lina's role in Lebanon, said

taty with Israel, even if it old the state of the state o

banese tracks are inseparthe There should be comlete Israeli withdrawals ad South Lebanon before ded can be realised," be The Israeli government

withdrawal is the and foremost issue,"

to depose Saddam Hussein. Sheikh Hakim told the paper.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan, Oman to start ferry service ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Pakistan and Oman have agreed to start a ferry service between them and also establish a

admitted that a life in hiding is deadly for him.